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# *Forty Fruitful Years*

*1942 - 1982*



**Sunset Park Baptist Church  
231 Central Boulevard  
Wilmington, North Carolina**





# **FORTY FRUITFUL YEARS**

**1942-1982**

A History of  
**SUNSET PARK BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Wilmington, North Carolina

Compiled by Annette H. Davis  
Church Historian

# FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF SUNSET PARK BAPTIST CHURCH

1942-1982

With grateful hearts and gratitude  
For this Anniversary Day  
We thank God for His promise  
To go with us all the way.

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Like the children of Israel traveling  
in the wilderness -  
For forty years we have traveled, too,  
With three charter members still with us,  
God has brought them safely through!

From a small tent on the corner  
To this magnificent church today;  
We chose God as our cornerstone  
And He has gone with us all the way.

There have been many shepherds who led this flock,  
Through the lean years and the good,  
And God has richly blessed them  
The way He said He would.

Our congregation keeps on growing  
And God is saving more and more,  
But we must never cease to labor  
For there are lost ones by the score.

We thank God for these past forty years,  
What a blessing they have been,  
Building for the Master  
And gathering for Him.

We dedicate this church to God  
And all its members, too,  
For the only work that will ever last  
Is what we do, God, for You.

God has called many of our members, and they  
have gone on before -

Now they are waiting for their loved ones  
On Heaven's Beautiful Shore.

So let us not waste His precious time,  
But face each day with His coming in mind.

Now, Father, bless our shepherd,  
Give him wisdom to discern Your way,  
And watch over the flock that You gave him,  
Protect us, that we might not stray.

And again we want to thank You  
For the forty years that You gave;  
May all that we have accomplished  
Bring You honor and praise;  
For anything worthy that we have done  
Was to show our love for God and His Son!

...Gladys Spell

## FOREWORD

It is the purpose of this book to convey as nearly as possible the spirit of a people who depended on the promises of God to strengthen them in their undertakings for the Glory of His Name. A study of all available reports was made — such as minutes of church conferences, bulletins, associational minutes, former histories and testimonies of members of long standing. No effort has been spared for accuracy, but even then some errors may have occurred.

Space will not permit recording all details of the history of Sunset Park Baptist Church, but members always should be aware of their legacy. It was the courage, determination and faith of our forefathers of this Southern Baptist Church that made it what it is today — a friendly church spiritually concerned in leading souls to Christ — and our heritage will always challenge us to hold high the banner of Christ as we go forward in His service.

This book is dedicated to all pastors and all members — past, present and future — of Sunset Park Baptist Church:

... to the pastors, the shepherds who have led the flock throughout the years, in ever pressing onward to higher goals in submission to God's will;

... to the men and women of former years who, standing on the promises of God, had the vision and courage to launch out and organize this church;

... to the men and women of today, young and old, whose Christian dedication of their time, talents and means for God's glory makes possible the expansion of Christ's Kingdom through the ministry of this church;

... and to the boys and girls of today and tomorrow, the future leaders of this church, whose Christian heritage is proven in the testimony of the church history as set forth in these pages.

*TO GOD BE THE GLORY, GREAT THINGS HE HATH DONE!*

# I

## THE TIMES

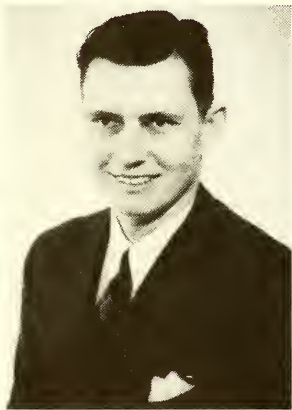
In 1941 the threatening war clouds that had been hovering over the world for many months suddenly erupted. The United States was critically involved with her allies in trying to stem the tide of Hitlerite conquests. Consequently, in the vast preparedness program of our country, Wilmington, North Carolina, became an important hub in the wheel of the defense industry. The North Carolina Shipbuilding Company was established here and the population began to increase rapidly with the influx of workers and their families.

With the Pearl Harbor incident on December 7, 1941, World War II was ignited and there was no area in America that escaped the realization that there were sacrifices to be made and work to be done for the survival of our nation and freedom for mankind.

The community of Sunset Park, adjacent to the site of the shipyard, was particularly effected. Acres and acres of towering pines were leveled to make room for houses to be built to accommodate the countless families moving in from all directions.

Noticeably missing from the skyline was the spire of a church steeple.

## II



Rev. James H. Butler  
1942-1944

The Baptist State Convention, noting the mushrooming growth of Wilmington and the nearby communities, saw the need for launching a mission program in the defense area. As a result, the Convention sent Rev. James H. Butler in April of 1942 to conduct services of worship and to investigate the possibility of establishing a church. After several weeks of activity in the various communities, made up primarily of defense workers, Rev. Butler erected a tent, 50' x 80', on the northeast corner of Southern Boulevard and Washington Street in Sunset Park. In a letter written later by Rev. Butler, he stated: *"In 1941 I was in Fayetteville preaching in a tent. Mine was the first sermon in it. Little did I dream that the same tent would start a church in Wilmington.*

*On July 4, 1942, there was no one to scatter the shavings but me."* Forty-eight persons were in attendance the first day, July 5, for services in the tent, and regular weekly activities were begun the next Sunday, July 12, 1942. The floor of the tent was a carpet of shavings and sawdust, and Rev. Butler is quoted as often saying, *"Welcome, friends. You will find our hearts as soft as our flooring."*

In August of 1942, a series of revival services was conducted in the tent by Rev. Douglas M. Branch, at that time a state missionary. At the conclusion of the revival services, it was felt that the time had come to organize a church; hence, at a special meeting Sunday afternoon, at 4:30 o'clock, September 6, 1942, residents of the community who desired a church in Sunset Park met with representatives from various Baptist churches in the Wilmington Baptist Association and Sunset Park Baptist Church was born! Rev. Butler was named pastor of the new church.

The order of the organizational service was as follows:

Hymn #122	"The Church's One Foundation"
Prayer	Rev. J. O. Walton
Hymn #28	"Zion Stands with Walls Surrounded"
Prayer	Rev. H. S. Strickland
Offering	
Hymn #220	"I Love Thy Church O God"
Moderator	Rev. Earl Bradley, Presiding
Discussion:	"What Baptists Believe"
	Rev. J. R. Clifford

Articles of Faith presented by Moderator

Charge to Church	Rev. Sankey L. Blanton
Church election of officers and appointment of nominating committee	
Presentation of church and fellowship covenants by Pastor Butler	

The charter membership of Sunset Park Baptist Church was composed of the following:

Mr. and Mrs. J. Fitz Blair	Miss Charlotte Lowe
Rev. and Mrs. James H. Butler	Mr. and Mrs. George D. McGill
Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Bryant	Mr. and Mrs. Paul Nix
Miss Nancy Bryant	Mrs. W. C. Page
W. Oscar Bryant, Jr.	Miss Louise Page
Mrs. A. B. Gregory	Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Rhodes
Mrs. W. M. Hasty	Mr. W. C. Robinson, Jr.
Miss Jean Honeycut	Mr. and Mrs. L. K. Schnidt
Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Lee	Mrs. F. M. Sidbury
Donald Lee	Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Tatum
Thomas Lee	Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Thomason
Mrs. J. H. Lowe	Mrs. L. L. Wooten
Miss Mary Louise Lowe	Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Price
	Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Sheppard

Little did these thirty-nine charter members realize that within just a few years Sunset Park Baptist Church would become one of the influential churches of the City of Wilmington.





First Board of Deacons

Front Row, l to r: J. T. Lee, Paul C. Nix, Roger Tatum and Rev. James H. Butler.

Back Row, l to r: George McGill, O. E. Rhodes, Carl Price and Louis Schnidt.

The first Board of Deacons was comprised of George D. McGill, chairman, J. T. Lee, Sr. and Paul Nix. In just a few months the following additional deacons were elected: L. K. Schnidt, Roger Tatum, O. E. Rhodes, J. C. Price and H. A. Haithcock.

The first pianist of the church was Mrs. J. T. (Janie) Lee; Mrs. L. K. Schnidt was elected church clerk; Mrs. Butler, the pastor's wife, became the first W.M.U. president and choir director; and Joe Metts was president of the first Brotherhood. Mrs. George D. McGill was named church treasurer and first Training Union director. O. K. Pridgen, layman from the First Baptist Church of Wilmington, was the Adult Sunday School teacher. The First Baptist Church donated a piano and pulpit stand and furnished office space for Rev. Butler until the new church could provide this facility; later that church also contributed \$2000 to the building fund for an educational building.

On October 20, 1942, Sunset Park Baptist Church was received into the Wilmington Baptist Association. The first messengers from the new church to the Associational meeting were Mrs. L. K. Schnidt, Mrs. George D. McGill and Mrs. J. T. Lee.

The congregation continued to worship in the tent until it was partially destroyed by wind on Wednesday, December 8, 1942. Nineteen members assembled that night for prayer meeting which was held at the pastorium, 116 South Washington Street. With faith and courage undaunted, the members immediately went to work. By the time the men got off from work on Thursday, December 9, lumber, nails and tools were waiting and, within two weeks, manpower through God's power had constructed a temporary 30' x 60' building which was used as a sanctuary for more than a year. During

the erection of the tarpaper-covered building, the congregation met in the auditorium of the Sunset Park Elementary School on Carolina Beach Road. (According to Rev. Butler, the damaged tent was stored and later sold to a Wesleyan Methodist preacher for \$200.)



The Tent

Drawing by Earl Kelly of first home of Sunset Park Baptist Church. Kelly was one of our first trustees.



Temporary frame building built after storm destroyed tent.

In 1943, Miss Bonnie Jean Ray and Miss Jeanette Bell, returned missionaries from China, home on furlough because of the war, were sent by the Foreign Mission Board to assist Rev. Butler in the shipyard area for one year.

On June 14, 1943, having already acquired the land from the State Baptist Convention, the church, which had grown to more than a hundred members in six months, authorized the construction of the first educational unit of the permanent church building on the northeast corner of Central Boulevard and Jefferson Street. This was quite a courageous undertaking for so small a group in the midst of the uncertainties of war.

Application was duly made to the War Production Board for building materials, but the first application was turned down. Rev. Butler made a trip to Washington, D. C., and received a triple-A priority rating for procurement of materials. Rev. Butler wrote, "*All these were days of hard work and prayer.*" Leslie Boney was chosen as architect for the building and the construction contract was awarded to W. A. Underwood. George D. McGill was chairman of the building committee, and trustees at this time were C. E. Gosnell, A. C. Jackson, and Earl Kelly. Their determination might well be summed up in John C. Slemph's sonnet, "We Build A Church" —

**So build this church from earth to lofty spire  
That it may be a holy trysting place,  
Where men may meet the Master face to face  
And then go out with hearts and souls on fire.  
Upon this spot we'll build a house of prayer,  
That men in quest of God may find Him there.**

Despite tremendous obstacles, the building was completed and services were held in it on February 6, 1944.

In order to complete the educational building, a loan of \$15,500 was obtained from Carolina Building and Loan Association. Minutes of the transaction read as follows: "THIS IS TO CERTIFY that at a business

meeting held on April 26, 1944, the congregation of Sunset Park Baptist Church passed a resolution ratifying and confirming the execution of a note and deed of trust in the amount of Fifteen Thousand Five Hundred (\$15,500.00) Dollars by A. C. Jackson, D. Earl Kelly and C. E. Gosnell, Trustees of Sunset Park Baptist Church, jointly with the Trustees of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, said deed of trust conveying to Murray G. James, Trustee, and the Carolina Building and Loan Association, as security for the payment of said note, Lots 34, 35, 36 and 37, Block 8, of Sunset Park, said property being the property on which now is located the Church and Parsonage now being used by the said Sunset Park Baptist Church, but which belongs to the Trustees of the State Convention aforesaid; The aforesaid trustees are further hereby authorized to make monthly payments on said loan in the amount of not less than Two Hundred (\$200.00) Dollars per month until said loan, together with interest at 6% per annum, is paid in full." Signed by James H. Butler, Pastor, and certified by A. C. Haithcock, Clerk of Sunset Park Baptist Church.



First Educational Building

Interestingly, one of the early functions of the church was participation in lunch-time worship services held at the shipyard. While workers ate their sandwiches during the short thirty-minute break away from riveting, welding and other duties, religious music was rendered and speakers from various churches took turns in delivering brief messages. To many, no doubt, these services provided the only exposure to hearing the Gospel proclaimed.

This little group of faithful Christians was by no means concerned exclusively with its own problems and difficulties. Inspired by the missionary zeal of Rev. Butler, the church, just a little over one year old, in conjunction with the Baptist State Convention, began building another church on the northeast corner of Adams Street and Shipyard Boulevard, to

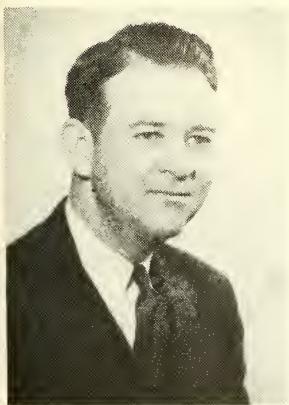


be used for services in the interest of residents of Maffitt Village. On January 1, 1944, Paul C. Nix became assistant pastor of Sunset Park Baptist Church, with full responsibility for the work at Maffitt Village. In October of 1944, the Maffitt Village Baptist Church was duly organized and Rev. Nix, ordained by Sunset Park Baptist Church, was the first pastor. This new church was later called Long Leaf Baptist Church.

Rev. Butler resigned on March 12, 1944, to become pastor of the First Baptist Church in Sylacauga, Alabama. In greetings written to Sunset Park Baptist Church seven years later, Rev. Butler said, *"You have a noble past. Your future is incomparable. Only God knows what great blessings are in store for you as you grow in numbers and in grace."* On July 23, 1974, in Tuskegee, Alabama, this great man of God, whose work in Sunset Park will never be forgotten, passed on to his reward.

In the two-month interim period between pastors, Sunset Park Baptist Church discontinued receiving aid from the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina.

### III



Rev. G. Carl Lewis  
1944-1949

On May 14, 1944, a call was extended to Rev. G. Carl Lewis, pastor of the Chadbourn Baptist Church, Chadbourn, North Carolina, to become the second pastor to serve Sunset Baptist Church. Rev. Lewis accepted the call and began his ministry in July of 1944.

Immediately after the arrival of Rev. Lewis, the congregation, now numbering more than one hundred and fifty, began a tireless effort to pay off its indebtedness of \$15,500 which had been borrowed to complete the educational unit of the church building.

Commenting on the development of the church during his first eight months of ministry, Rev. Lewis told the congregation: *"We are grateful to God for the steady work of our church and for the increased interest on the part of the people throughout this area.*

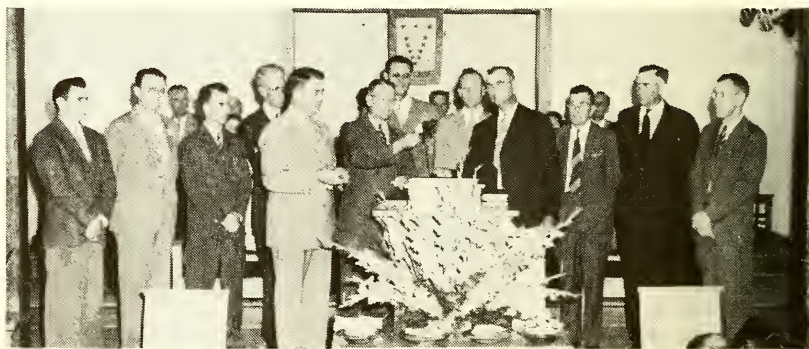
*Let us press on with the work which Christ would have us do. Be loyal . . . . Pray daily . . . . Bear witness . . . . Having done these things, we may expect great things from God . . . . Let us use our great opportunity."*

Almost three years after the beginning of World War II, it became increasingly evident in the summer of 1944 that Hitler and his forces were doomed. In cooperation with other Wilmington churches, plans were made for services to be held on the day when hostilities would cease in Europe. Formal announcement was made on May 8, 1945, of the unconditional surrender of the German nation, thus bringing to a close the European phase of

the war. Great was the rejoicing! The Japanese formerly surrendered on September 7, 1945.

In October of 1944, Mr. M. C. Cagle assumed the responsibilities of choir director—and in this capacity he served, without pay, until July of 1949.

From the start, Sunset Park Baptist Church has always been well represented by messengers at the Associational meetings and W.M.U. meetings. An incident occurred on the return trip from one of these sessions that is really "one for the book" and Mrs. J. T. (Janie) Lee describes it as "the most embarrassing moment of my life." On this occasion, Mrs. Lee, church pianist, and Mrs. Lewis, the pastor's wife, were riding home with a group of women from another local church. As a car passed by, Mrs. Lewis exclaimed, "Oh, look, there's my husband! Janie, let's get out and ride back with him and save these ladies the extra distance of carrying us all the way home." When questioned about the positive identification of the driver of the other car, Mrs. Lewis said she was sure it was their car and, "Besides," she added, "that's the back of Carl's neck — I'd know it anywhere!" Their driver obligingly sped ahead and the two ladies from Sunset Park were deposited on the side of the lonely country road. As the car with the man driver stopped at the hitchhiker's signal, imagine the surprise and consternation of the ladies when there sat a man neither of them had ever seen before! After listening to their explanation of their embarrassing predicament, the driver courteously drove the pastor's wife and church pianist home — but he was probably muttering to himself, "What will the Baptists do next!"



Burning of mortgage on first educational building.  
(This picture appeared on cover of the Biblical Recorder 8-28-46)

The balance of the debt on the educational building and the pastorium was reduced month by month until it was paid off in full on June 21, 1946. Nine days later, on Sunday, June 30th, the church voted to make plans for the construction of a new sanctuary. However, the closing of the shipyard caused a rapid turnover in the area population and many of the faithful members of the church moved away. Plans for the new auditorium were temporarily shelved. It is significant to note that despite the loss of members following the closing of the shipyard, Sunset Park Baptist Church registered a net gain of thirty-nine members during 1946.



Sunbeam Band — 1947

Money was added monthly to the building fund and all departments and organizations of the church continued in remarkable growth, motivated by the zealous and faithful Christian witnessing of leaders and members who joyfully went about doing the Lord's business. Then, without warning, a terrible "attendance-hindrance" appeared in the form of the unforgettable nation-wide polio epidemic of 1947. Because of the severity of this crippling disease, against which no effective vaccine had been discovered at that time, a three-month ban was placed on the assembling of children. This, of course, necessarily curtailed attendance in all church activities — until the restriction was lifted with the arrival of cool weather to lessen the likelihood of the spread of infection.

Rev. Lewis continued his effective ministry until March 1949 when he resigned to accept a call from the First Baptist Church in Rockingham, North Carolina.

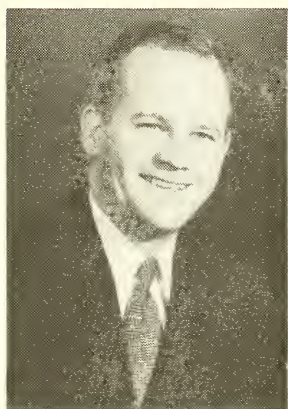


Youth Choir 1949  
Left, Mrs. J. T. Lee, pianist - Right, Ms. W. M. Hardison, director



In September 1949, on the occasion of the Seventh Anniversary of our church, Rev. Lewis wrote to our pastor and members: "... Looking back over the brief years of your glorious life, I rejoice in the fact of your numerical growth, in the unusual display of God's saving power in Jesus Christ as evidenced by the salvation of hundreds of souls, in the manifest presence of the Holy Spirit who has provided spiritual power for supernatural accomplishments. With the help of God you have done well. Because of your consecration and your loyalty, Sunset Park Baptist Church has been remarkably successful... I am convinced that your acceptance of the Divine challenge, your vision, your aggressive spirit, your unity in Christ, will carry you through your building program, through any possible financial difficulties, through the spiritual crises which will arise. I hold to the conviction that despite the many obstacles which may block the way to victory, you will become one of the truly outstanding churches of the State."

#### IV



Rev. John E. Lawrence  
1949-1954

Sunset Park Baptist Church has borne out the truth that God is always preparing a special servant to take over His work where others leave off, as evidenced in April of 1949 when a call was extended to Rev. John E. Lawrence, then a student at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Rev. Lawrence, formerly a lawyer in Raleigh, North Carolina, accepted the call and began his ministry as the third pastor of this church on June 1, 1949.

In conference in January of 1950, the church voted to proceed with the erection of the new auditorium and a special building fund drive was launched. The trustees, C. E. Gosnell, chairman, J. T. Lee, Sr. and J. V. Tomberlin, immediately went to work.

Of the three bids received for the job, the lowest proposal was over \$160,000. The trustees and the pastor were reluctant for the membership of slightly over 450 to take on so great a financial obligation, so the trustees went into a huddle. Armed with blueprints and specifications that had been drawn up at no cost to the church, the trustees, believing that they could save the church a sizeable sum of money, appeared before the people and asked that they, the trustees, be allowed to assume full responsibility and have complete charge of the construction. Some of the members, less stouthearted than others, shook their heads to indicate that it couldn't be done, but the church approved the trustees' request. In May of 1950 the foundation was poured and the cornerstone was laid the following September.

The three trustees, at a sacrifice of many personal interests, had just one thing in mind — to build a sanctuary — and they prayerfully, courageously

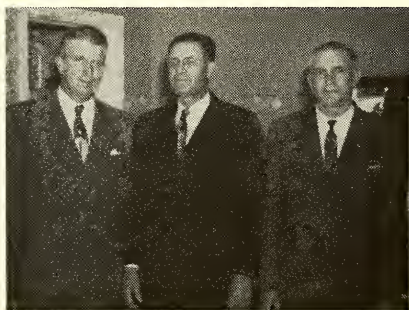
and confidently put their shoulders to the wheel and forged ahead. They were never discouraged by advice from "sidewalk superintendents" and when one member's complaint was relayed to the builders through Rev. Lawrence, Mr. Lee says he jokingly responded, "Preacher, you stick to the preaching and leave the building to us!"

In lieu of using a contractor, a foreman was employed and the trustees personally superintended the work. Mr. Gosnell was official timekeeper. He would turn the time cards over to Lloyd Dunn, treasurer, who would make the payroll and pay other bills as presented. One member commented, "I know Mr. Gosnell never goes home because he spends at least thirty hours a day on the job!"

All the steel, except the steeple, was erected free of charge by Mr. Tomberlin. It is recalled that he would use one crane to lift a second crane to the main floor in order to set the steel. Mr. Lee recounts that one morning when workmen were bolting up the steeple on the sidewalk, two members passed by and said they did not see how it was possible to get "this long thing on top of that building." Returning home from work that afternoon, these same two men — Earl Dye and Bill Cleland — were amazed to view the steeple serenely in place on top of the building! This seemingly impossible "helicopter" feat has been accomplished through the courtesy of Mr. Lee's friend, Mr. Grover Denning, general manager of the Diamond Construction Company, who was in Wilmington at that time building the State Ports dock. Mr. Denning had loaned a large truck crane with a 100-foot boom and furnished a crew to operate the heavy equipment, without one penny's cost to the church.

As expected in any major construction, there were several ups and downs. For instance, as the auditorium was nearly finished, the kind of front steps to build was a matter of much discussion, but the question was settled with the decision to use a circular stairway on each side of the front entrance. However, when J. T. Lee, according to witnesses, tested the steps, the bricks folded up beneath him "like a sliding board" and he surprisedly picked himself up off the ground! To eliminate other similar accidents, architectural changes were effected and the church building was completed with strong, straight steps leading up each side of the front.

**It has been conservatively estimated that the three trustees saved the church approximately \$40,000 in the cost of the new sanctuary.**



Trustees J. V. Tomberlin, J. T. Lee, Sr.  
and C. E. Gosnell



THE ORIGINAL SANCTUARY,





**SUNSET PARK BAPTIST CHURCH**



Worshippers Leaving First Service Held in New Sanctuary May 6, 1951

On May 6, 1951, the auditorium was occupied for the first time — literally full and running over with hundreds of worshippers assembled together in reverent humility and gratitude to acknowledge God's greatness in the beautiful and fitting edifice erected to His Glory!

The following is an outline of the first morning worship service conducted in the new sanctuary:

<b>Prelude</b>	<b>Mrs. J. T. Lee, Organist</b>
<b>Doxology</b>	
<b>Invocation</b>	
<b>Call to Worship: "Take Time To Be Holy"</b>	<b>Adult Choir</b>
<b>Hymn No. 430: "We're Marching to Zion"</b>	
<b>Responsive Reading: Adoration</b>	<b>Selection 515</b>
<b>Recognition of Visitors and Announcements</b>	
<b>Special Music: "Rejoice"</b>	<b>Adult Choir</b>
<b>Message: THE BEGINNING OF A DREAM Rev. James Butler</b>	
<b>Hymn No. 337: 'Saviour Like A Shepard Lead Us'</b>	
<b>Pastoral Prayer and Choral Response</b>	
<b>Recognition of the Building Committee</b>	
<b>Hymn No. 140: "The Church's One Foundation"</b>	
<b>Our Tithes and Offerings</b>	
<b>Offertory Prayer</b>	
<b>Special Music: "The Beautiful Story"</b>	<b>Int. Choir</b>



**Message: THE FAITH THAT MAKES A DREAM COME  
TRUE**

**Dr. M. A. Huggins**

**Concluding Meditation: FAITH FOR THE FUTURE**      **Pastor**

**Hymn of Invitation No. 189: "Where He Leads Me"**

**Benediction and Response**

J. T. Lee said he would never forget how Dr. M. A. Huggins, Secretary of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, looked when he came into the new sanctuary that Sunday morning and remarked, with tears in his eyes, "You men have done a good job. You know I was critical when you started because you did not use an architect."

A total of \$70,000 had been borrowed to complete the auditorium and remodel the educational building into Sunday School classrooms. By September 28, 1952, there remained \$49,388 to be paid on the indebtedness, but in spite of this obligation, the church acted again on faith and authorized the creation of a new pastorium fund.

In a special service commemorating the Tenth Anniversary of Sunset Park Baptist Church, Rev. Lawrence said, "... *The church has grown from a membership of 39 to a membership of 896 . . . In giving, the church has been unusually faithful and this year will give approximately \$60 per resident member, or a total of more than \$45,000. In the past forty months there have been 295 added to the church by baptism — an average of 7.4 per month, with total additions in the same period averaging 16 per month.*" And Rev. Lawrence added, "*God has been marvelously gracious to our church. Such growth and development could never have been possible without His having blessed us. Our hearts should be humbled at the thought of His wonderful goodness.*"



1950 GA and RA Recognition Service

In addition to plans for a new pastorium, the church adopted a Five Year Plan, voting to renovate the old pastorium for the use of the Sunday School and Training Union, pay off its indebtedness, increase gifts to missions by ten percent each year, air-condition the auditorium, raise \$20,000 through regular tithes and offerings toward a new educational building and install chimes in the tower of the church. *"An ambitious program — but no more difficult to achieve than what the church has achieved since its inception in that tent ten years ago. We can accomplish it if God be willing — and if we work."*

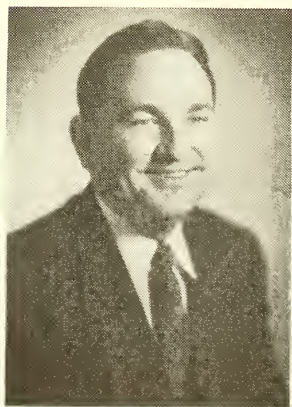
In March 1953 a lot for the new pastorium was purchased, located on the southwest corner of Northern Boulevard and Washington Street.

In special conference May 27, 1953, the church voted to proceed with air-conditioning the lower and upper auditorium. Alva E. Penney, church clerk, wrote in the minutes, "It was the opinion that air conditioning would increase attendance in all services in which the auditorium was used, and decrease the attendance of mosquitoes."

A church scholarship fund was set up in November of 1953 for the purpose of extending financial aid to qualified young persons in the membership who needed assistance in furthering their education, thereby encouraging young men and women to seriously consider entering full-time Christian vocations.

After leading the church to a very fine place of achievement in the spiritual life of the area, Rev. Lawrence concluded his ministry at Sunset Park Baptist Church in February of 1954, moving to Shelby, North Carolina, as pastor of the First Baptist Church in that city.

## V



Rev. A. T. Greene, Jr.  
1954-1960

Rev. A. T. Greene, Jr., resigning from the pastorate of the Lucas Avenue Baptist Church of Laurens, South Carolina, began his ministry at Sunset Park on April 4, 1954. He and his wife were not exactly strangers to many of the congregation, for two reasons: Mrs. Greene, as Miss Katherine Abree, State Young Peoples' Secretary, conducted the first Girls' Auxiliary Coronation Service in Sunset Park Baptist Church during Rev. Lewis' ministry; and Rev. Greene, as State Royal Ambassador Counselor, in 1944 had supervised the Royal Ambassador Assembly during Baptist Boys' Week in Wilmington.

Rev. Greene added a new feature to the church bulletin — a "Service Man of the Week" section which spotlighted each week one of the young men of the church serving in the armed forces. A list dated December 1953 showed nineteen men away on patriotic duty. Also, a "Lest We Forget" service was observed each

quarter, with a get-acquainted fellowship period in the lower auditorium honoring all the new members who had been added to the church in the previous three months.

In July of 1954 a church library was opened and Mrs. Cecil Palmer was elected as first librarian. By September, just two months after its beginning, the library shelves contained 175 books. By 1967 over 1000 books were available through the library.

The church also voted at this time to give support toward Bible Study in the public schools.

Shortly after Rev. Greene's arrival, construction was started on a new pastorium on the southeast corner of Northern Boulevard and Washington Street. Plans for this dwelling were drawn up and donated by A. Haywood Rowan. Open house was held in the new \$25,000 pastorium January 9, 1955, to give all church members an opportunity to see the new living quarters they had provided for their pastors, present and future. The old pastorium on Central Boulevard was put to use as Sunday School facilities for four nurseries and one beginner department.



Pastorium — January 1955

As the result of a Brotherhood-sponsored drive begun in June 1955, Carillonic bells were installed in the church steeple, and on Sunday afternoon December 18, 1955, the bells were introduced to the community in a beautiful program of Christmas music. Rev. Greene remarked, *"The Carillonic bells peeling forth in our community have been a source of inspiration throughout the vicinity. Many comments have been made by our shut-ins and others who have been blessed by this Christmas music."* The debt on the bells, which cost \$4500, was paid in full by December of 1956. In the dedicatory service, Rev. Greene said, *"It is our sincere prayer and desire that these Carillonic bells shall ever be used for His Glory and the advancement of His Kingdom in this community."*

In October of 1956 the Wilmington Associational minutes listed four young men as ministerial students from Sunset Park Baptist Church —



namely, Ray Rogers at Southeastern Seminary; Bobby Edison at Wake Forest; Albert H. Jones at Elon College; and Horace Hawes at Mars Hill.



T.E.L. Class — 1956

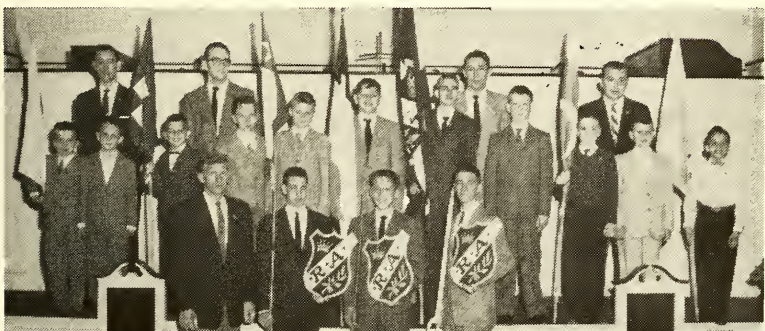
1956 Installation of Officers for the T.E.L. (Timothy-Eunice-Lois) Sunday School Class aboard Fergus' Ark on the Cape Fear River. Seated at the table, second from left: Mrs. Lamenta Kelly, department superintendent; Mrs. Sally MacCallum, teacher; Mrs. Audrey Sellars, class president; and Mrs. Gertrude Armstrong, installing officer.



The Ruth Sunday School Class — 1957

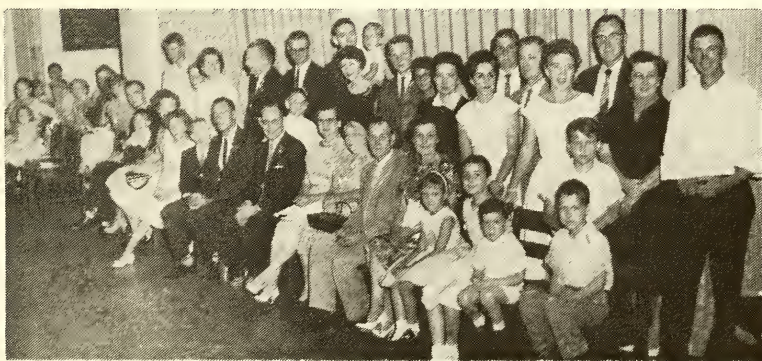
In March, 1960, the church acquired a house and lot at 204 Central Boulevard. This "White House" was used for Sunday School space — but there still remained a desperate need for more facilities.

The Southwide Intermediate Sword Drill in 1957 will never be forgotten by Sunset Park Baptist Church because Miss Pat Morgan, a very gifted young member of the church, came home wearing the winner's crown! Minutes of the regular church conference held October 8, 1958, state that a recommendation was made by the Board of Deacons, and passed, "That as soon as possible a savings account in the amount of \$100 be set up in the name of Miss Patricia Morgan, the account to be presented upon her graduation from high school, in recognition of the honor and prestige she has brought to the church as the Southwide Sword Drill Champion."



RA Recognition Service — 1959

Gifts to the Cooperative Program and to all mission causes steadily increased, in spite of the loss of about seventy-five members who moved away because of the transfer of the home offices of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad from Wilmington to Jacksonville, Florida. Appreciation Day was held June 19, 1960, for the members of the church and Sunday School who were moving to Florida.



Part of ACL families who moved to Jacksonville, Florida — 1960



Sunday School room was still lacking, however, and the church found it necessary to relieve the situation by leasing a two-story house at 408 Central Boulevard to provide assembly facilities for the Young Adult Sunday School Department. This arrangement continued until 1960.

In September of 1954, Mr. Charles Meadows joined the church staff as the first employed full-time music and educational director. Mr. Meadows in April of 1956 directed the Associational Hymn Festival which was held in conjunction with the Training Union Tournament at Sunset Park Baptist Church. Among his many activities, he also helped organize and successfully directed the Royal Ambassador Baseball League for both Junior and Intermediate boys. Inter-church games were played on the baseball field at Sunset Park Junior High School and the bleachers were lined with loyal supporters for the various teams. Mr. Meadows continued his duties until his resignation in April of 1958.

A new full-time minister of music and youth director, Mr. Leroy Nash, began his duties on June 1, 1959.

At regular conference in February of 1957, a committee was appointed to study the feasibility of starting a church recreation program. As a result of the committee's recommendations, the church voted to sponsor a program of recreation on Thursday nights for young people and intermediates, and on Friday night for juniors. The first church-elected recreation committee was composed of Cecil Palmer, Thurston C. Davis, Sr., Mrs. D. T. Branch and Mrs. Richard Pace. W. E. Williamson served as chairman of this committee in 1959.

Exactly five years and eleven months after the first payment was made on the auditorium debt, the mortgage was paid in full! By paying off this debt in such short time, instead of taking fifteen years, the church saved interest in the amount of almost \$35,000. On Homecoming Day in 1957, the debt-free auditorium was dedicated to the Glory of God — but no period of relaxation followed.

On December 15, 1957, Sunday School attendance was 630. The average Sunday School attendance for the whole year of 1957 was 607, so it became vitally important to turn full attention towards raising funds for a new educational building. Midnight oil often burned in Rev. Greene's study as he pondered over ways and means to materialize his dream for providing adequate educational facilities. It was no uncommon sight to see the pastor, accompanied by John and Lamenta Kelly and their camera, gathering pictorial evidence which pointed out better than words the urgency for additional space. These pictures showed an Intermediate Boys' Sunday School Class meeting in the church kitchen with the teacher squeezed between the refrigerator and stove while he taught the lesson; Junior departments were overflowing with standing room only; one Junior Boys' Class met in the small hall back of the baptistry with choir robes hanging all around the walls. There was only one Primary Department for 133 primaries (the recommended number for a Primary Department was 30); and eight Sunday School classes were meeting every week in the church auditorium. Young men were

being taught in a closet-size kitchen of rented property at 408 Central Boulevard; and the writer of this history distinctly remembers the white plaster ceiling falling all over her wide black velvet hat as she stood teaching a class of young ladies in an upstairs room of this leased dwelling!

Then came that fateful Sunday, June 26, 1960, with a two-fold effect on the future of Sunset Park Baptist Church. Following the morning worship service, the trustees made the following recommendation: "That the trustees of Sunset Park Baptist Church be authorized to borrow the sum of \$110,000 to construct the new educational building, payments on the loan to amount to \$788.15 per month. This loan will be sufficient to construct the building, to pay off the pastorium debt, and to move the brown house (old pastorium) to new location on Adams Street, plus the lowering of the choir loft in the present auditorium." By secret ballot the congregation, knowing what God could do through willing workers, voted to proceed in faith to construct the long-awaited-for building.

The second significant occurrence of that day was Mr. Greene's resignation which he read while the ballots were being counted. His letter, in part, said, *"At the time I write these words, as well as the time they are to be read, the decision as to whether the vote is in favor or against building the proposed educational building is unknown. Therefore, the results will have no bearing on what I am going to say. I can feel free to share with you the struggle that has been going on within my own heart . . . . Above all, I wanted to do that which would be for the best interest of the church and the Kingdom of God."* Pointing out specific needs for the new building, he told the audience he felt it would be un-Christian to do anything to block the vote, and the letter continued, *"I say all this to let you know why I have waited until this moment to make my decision known, hoping you will understand at least in part. Feeling that it is God's will for my life and in the best interest of the church, I hereby submit my resignation. It has not been an easy decision and I have made it conscious that I shall have made myself a target of much criticism."*

After a very fruitful ministry of six-and-a-half years, Rev. Greene's resignation became effective July 31, 1960, and he moved to Concord, North Carolina, to begin serving as associational missionary of the Cabarrus Association. The people of Sunset Park Baptist were saddened by the news of Rev. Greene's death on March 18, 1974.

## VI

In October of 1958, Sunset Park Baptist Church had branched out into another mission endeavor. Cognizant of the great need and opportunity to carry on Christ's ministry at Houston Moore Terrace, a low-rent government housing project located at 13th and Greenfield Streets, the church voted to accept the sponsorship of Houston Moore Mission which had been opened in 1957 and operated by the Lake Forest Baptist Church. Sunset Park Baptist Church received 103 Mission members into church fellowship.

The first pastor under the new sponsorship was Rev. William H. Stokley, III. Meetings were continued in the Houston Moore Community Center. The need for building space was a sad story. In 1959 the Wilmington Association contributed \$3150 of the total \$3350 for the purchase of land at 14th and Greenfield Streets. It was at this location that the mother church erected a building, after borrowing \$16,000 for that purpose. The building contract was let to Roscoe Boone, one of the church members, and services were first held in the new building on November 15, 1959, with Rev. Greene bringing the morning message. In 1959 the mission, re-named Immanuel Baptist Mission, ranked second in the Association in ratio of baptisms to church membership.

On August 28, 1963, Rev. Robert Jernigan succeeded Rev. Stokley as pastor of Immanuel Baptist Mission. In the period from September 1, 1962, to July of 1967, there was a total of 165 additions through Immaneul Baptist Mission — 81 by baptism and 84 by letter. Tithes and offerings increased from a weekly average of \$38 in 1963 to \$100 in 1967. In August of 1967 there was a membership of 128 in the five Sunday School departments. Five departments were active in Training Union and there were three organized choirs — Junior, Intermediate and Young People-Adult. Also, there functioned a Brotherhood, plus a Women's Missionary Union with a Sunbeam Band and three Girls' Auxiliary units. Vacation Bible School was conducted each year.

In 1966 the Mission received a new Baldwin Orga-sonic electric organ as a gift from Mrs. Addie Rittenbury. In her testimony at the dedicatory service, Mrs. Rittenbury said that the organ was an expression of her love for the Mission and a means through which she could render better music to glorify God during the worship services. (This organ later stolen and was never recovered.)

Through the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Tomberlin, the Mission received a public address system over which recorded hymns could be heard daily throughout the neighborhood.

Several members from the mother church assisted in the work at the Mission, but Mr. R. A. Armstrong's contribution and dedication have been outstanding. Besides being a deacon at the mother church and a member of the Missions Committee, he conducted prayer services and filled the pulpit on various occasions at the Mission, taught the Men's Bible Class for many years, and sang in the choir. In addition, as a "one-man committee", he reportedly wore out several lawn mowers in the upkeep of the grounds!

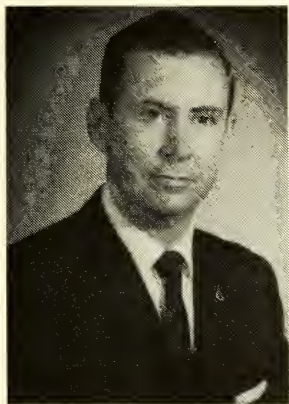
Children constituted about 75% of the attendance at the regular services at Immanuel Baptist Mission. Jesus said, "And a little child shall lead them," and "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Seldom does a church have the opportunity that was the privilege of Sunset Park Baptist Church to minister through a sponsored mission to a field that was so "white unto harvest!"

In church conference in April, 1971, it was voted to give church status to the Immanuel Mission. Provisions were made to allow Rev. Jernigan to con-



tinue living in the "brown house" until October 1972; Also, when the mortgage was fully retired in the spring of 1973, all the property would be deeded to Immanuel Baptist Church, with just one stipulation: If Immanuel Baptist Church ceased to function as a Southern Baptist Convention Church, the property would be transferred to the Wilmington Baptist Association to be used in its mission work. A special service was held on September 26, 1971, recognizing the newly formed Immanuel Baptist Church (effective October 1, 1971), giving thanks and praise to God for His blessings, and asking His continued providence on this agent for spreading the Gospel into the surrounding area. Rev. Jernigan ("Brother Bob") continues in 1982 as pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church.

## VII



Rev. Colon S. Jackson  
1960-1963

Having resigned as pastor of the First Baptist Church in Erwin, North Carolina, Rev. Colon S. Jackson officially began his duties on November 8, 1960, as the fifth pastor of Sunset Park Baptist Church.

It was under Rev. Jackson's leadership that a Junior Board of Deacons was formed and he inaugurated the custom of appointing a Deacon of the Week. Rev. Jackson also began publishing a church newsletter — to become known as "The Beacon". The purpose of "The Beacon", mailed to the home of each church family, was to bring spiritual messages from the pastor and interesting news of the church activities and plans.

Through acquisition of several lots bought at various times, the church provided ample parking facilities behind the educational building and across the street. However, one of the major problems confronting the church continued to be the need of more space, and "Mr. Greene's dream," born years before, became closer to reality as groundbreaking exercises were held July 12, 1961, for a new educational building. When completed, the two-story building, as planned, would have approximately 12,500 square feet of floor space and would provide a chapel, twenty-four class rooms, assembly rooms for departments, closets, storage space, and restroom facilities.

Through willingness and sacrifice, this dream came true. The building was erected next to the church on Central Boulevard on the site of the first church-owned pastorium. The former pastorium, affectionately referred to as "The Brown House" because of the brown shingle siding, was re-located on Adams Street and temporarily used as the Young People's Department.

By no means, however, did everything go smoothly during the erection of the educational building. About halfway through the construction, the fury

of the elements again rent havoc to church property, as the newly-built roof structure collapsed when lightning struck during an electrical storm. (It brought to mind the windstorm that tore down the tent, the first home of Sunset Park Baptist Church.) Fortunately, no financial loss was experienced by the church, as proper insurance coverage was provided by the contractor. After a necessary brief delay of progress, work was resumed and the new facilities were opened in March of 1962.

Trustees during the building of the educational building were: H. L. Allard, chairman; C. V. Cummings, Kyle Graybeal, John Kelly, Lockey Hickman, Roscoe Boone, L. M. Bradshaw, and M. B. Barefoot. Expenditures in the construction of the building amounted to \$144,039.79.

John Kelly appreciatively recalls that when a certain local savings and loan institution was approached for the purpose of discussing financial matters, one of the executives laughingly — but, nevertheless, somewhat seriously — commented that his organization was a bit reluctant to lend Sunset Park Baptist Church any money! And for what reason? Because the church had the established reputation of repaying its obligations in such a short while!

In addition to the realization of the new educational building, over \$4000 in extra funds were raised for an extensive program of vitally needed repairs and renovation, including the lowering of the choir loft.

The new educational building on Central Boulevard is pictured on the front cover of this book.

During the 1960's, Junior Deacons were active as an understudy group and assistants to the regular Board of Deacons. Some of the boys who were part of this program were:

Jimmy Allard	Mickey Allard	Ronnie Barnhill
John Bayne, Jr.	Edward Boone, Jr.	Lloyd Bradshaw, Jr.
Douglas Carmichael	David Collier	Lenwood Danford, Jr.
Johnny Davis	Milton Davis	Thurston Davis, Jr.
Thomas Dyches	Eugene Frazelle	Alan Fussell
Robin Graybeal	Gilbert Hale	John Hicks
Wayne Howell	Douglas Jackson	Don Jenkins
Robert Jordan	Jay King	Don Lewis
Horace Malpass	Harry McCabe III	Bobby McKoy
Carl Miller, Jr.	Philip Morgan, Jr.	Ray Newman
Richard Pace	Robert Pace	Eugene Padrick
Graham Peterson, Jr.	Tommy Rhodes	Ronald Russo
Joe Tomberlin	Butch Williams	Larry Williams
	Paul Williams, Jr.	Larry Woolard

The church considered it an honor when Rev. Jackson was one of twelve men selected from North Carolina to lead an evangelistic crusade in North Dakota August 20 - 27, 1961, sponsored by the Baptist State Conventions of North Dakota and North Carolina. The church supported the crusade by paying Rev. Jackson's expenses to and from North Dakota with meals while

traveling. Through picture slides, Rev. Jackson shared his experiences with his congregation, making them very conscious of the acute need for Christian workers in North Dakota and similar areas.



17-year-old Young Men's Sunday School Class — 1963

Left to right, front row: Wilson Downing, Ronald Barnhill, Jr., Graham Peterson. Back row: Hugh Keith, Len Danford, Jr., Bobby Spell, Claude Hill, Bill Neilson, Ronnie Odom



1963 High School Graduates  
on Senior Recognition Day



Part of the 1962 Board of Deacons  
L to R: front, F. L. Kersey, H. L. Allard,  
Kyle Graybeal; back, D. T. Branch, Charles  
Barefoot, H. B. Garriss



In 1963, the scholarship fund was named the Mickey Allard Scholarship Fund, as a memorial to Robert Michael (Mickey) Allard, an active seventeen-year-old member of the Young People's Department, who was fatally injured in a hunting trip accident December 31, 1962. The New Hanover High School Class of '63 presented a table to the church for the vestibule as a tribute to Mickey's memory, and a music stand for the choir director was given by friends in memoriam to this dedicated young Christian.

Our church enjoys a very personal and close tie with foreign missions through Ray Rogers who grew up in Sunset Park Baptist Church, as he and his wife Joyce and their son John labor on the mission field in Indonesia. Though not sent out from Sunset Park Baptist Church to serve on the foreign field, we consider him as our first foreign missionary.

"Ray Rogers Day" was set aside on July 21, 1963, honoring Rev. and Mrs. Ray Rogers as they prepared to leave for the foreign mission field. Son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Rogers, Ray was always an active young Christian who loved to use his talents for the Lord. Among his achievements, he was regional first place winner in the Young People's Speakers Tournament in 1951. One of the Rogers' 1965 newsletters addressed to Southern Baptists, U.S.A., read: "... *Indonesia is a land beyond description in the realm of beauty and nature. . . however, one need travel only a short distance before he becomes aware of the masses of humanity, and there wells up within the heart of your new missionary family the desire to see these people won to Christ. . . Ray and I are the only Americans and the only Baptist missionaries here. This is like having one Baptist preacher for the whole state of South Carolina.*" Quoting from the New Testament, "And he looked on



The church provides car for Ray Rogers to use while on furlough in 1972.  
L to r: Roy Holder, Minister of Education, Arnold Ray Potter, Sunday School Director;  
Ray and Joyce Rogers with son John; and Mrs. Flossie Rogers, Ray's mother.

*them as sheep without a shepherd,"* Joyce and Ray continued, *"These words become increasingly meaningful as we view the human challenge of this land. The only solution is the lengthening and widening of Christian witness here. Will you join us in prayer that young people will allow God to meet this challenge through their life?"*

On every furlough — once every four years — Ray fills our pulpit for one or more services. In 1972, Sunset Park Baptist Church bought a car for the Rogers to use until they returned to Indonesia the following year; then the church sold the car and the money was put back into the treasury.

Effective August 1, 1963, Rev. Jackson resigned to assume the pastoral responsibilities of the First Baptist Church in Fayetteville, North Carolina. During his ministry at Sunset Park Baptist Church, there were 160 additions to the membership.

## VIII



*Rev. W. C. Lamb*  
1964-1965

For the last five months in 1963, the church was without a regular pastor, but the pulpit was supplied by many able men, both preachers and laymen. Most often to serve as supply pastors were Rev. W. F. Summers and Rev. C. E. Stines, both being local ordained ministers.

Rev. William (Bill) C. Lamb, called from the First Baptist Church in Cherryville, North Carolina, began his pastorate at Sunset Park Baptist Church on January 1, 1964.

In the summer of 1964, the J. Kyle Graybeal family, very active church members, participated in the West Coast Laymen's Crusade-Operation Lost Person, and their travels took them to California, Oregon, and Washington.

Upon their return, Mr. and Mrs. Graybeal appeared before various groups to relate their experiences and emphasize the importance of Christian witnessing. The crusade was sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission and Home Mission Board.

Rev. Lamb's stay at Sunset Park Baptist Church was short, but his ministry was far-reaching. In the twenty-and-a-half months he was pastor, special emphasis was placed on evangelism and stewardship, with a resultant 264 additions to the membership and a budgetary increase from \$62,000 in 1964 to \$87,000 in 1965!

Rev. Lamb informed the church on August 15, 1965, of his decision to accept the position of Associate Director of the Division of Evangelism with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, effective September 14, 1965.

The following is quoted from Rev. Lamb's letter of resignation: *"During the past twenty months, this church has made more progress in more areas than almost any other Baptist church in North Carolina during the same period of time. For many years the church wanted to do some needed renovation, raise their level of stewardship in giving, and reach more people for Christ. We have seen these important things accomplished in the months we have worked together. . . . Our goal was 75 additions by September 1, 1964, but in three months' time, by March 31, 1964, there were 104 new additions, 76 by baptism and 28 by letters. Only five Baptist churches in North Carolina reached 75 for baptism in the entire year of 1962.*

**In June of 1965, the church was informed by the Division of Evangelism that Sunset Park Baptist Church had the largest number of persons baptized — 111 — in 1964 out of all the 3,400 Baptist churches in North Carolina.**

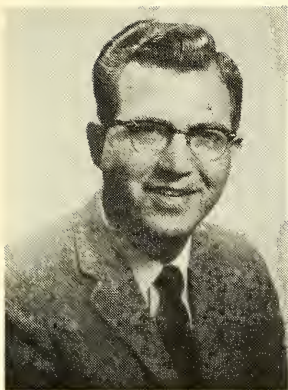
Sunday, May 16, 1965, was designated as "Janie Lee Day" in honor of Mrs. J. T. Lee, Sr., charter member, who had served as pianist-organist since the beginning of the church. Mrs. Lee was recognized during the morning service and an afternoon reception was held in the fellowship hall. The letters of invitation, in part, read, **"It is needless to attempt to enumerate in this letter all the attributes that make Mrs. Lee, our church organist, a person whom we dearly love. She has the distinction of hving served God through this church for a longer continuous period than any other member. Everyone who knows her is conscious of her Christian character, friendly personality, her wonderful musical talent and how freely and cheerfully she dedicates her abilities and time to her Lord. Our expression of appreciation is indeed long overdue."** During the afternoon program, letters of greetings were read from all former pastors and the church presented Mrs. Lee an engraved silver candelabra as a small token of gratitude for her services. After twenty-six years of service, Janie Lee resigned as church organist on August 1, 1968. As Rev. Vinson, pastor at that time, said, *"Words are inadequate to express our most sincere appreciation for her unusual sense of dedication that has been demonstrated over these years. How we thank God for her wonderful Christian spirit and her glowing testimony that is felt throughout the congregation."*



*Mrs. J. T. (Janie) Lee*



## IX



*Rev. E. T. Vinson  
1966-1970*

The church was again without pastoral leadership for a period of six months. On March 1, 1966, Rev. E. T. Vinson, coming from the Newport Baptist Church in Newport, North Carolina, assumed his duties as Sunset Park Baptist Church's seventh pastor.

Under Rev. Vinson's ministry, the Forward Program made great strides. In April of 1967, the church adopted a Five-Year Spiritual Growth Program, with goals set up for each year through September 30, 1971. The challenging work the church set out to achieve included increasing the church's outreach; developing church members' Christian maturity; developing the church's financial resources and providing physical needs; invol-

ing the church in meeting community needs; emphasizing greater stewardship and co-operative world missions.



**Committee for Stewardship Program — 1967**

L to R front: E. C. Wilkie from N. C. State Baptist Convention, Jeanne Leonard, Ruby Campbell, Anna Mintz, Ellen Parham, Marie McKenzie; back: R. M. Williams, Arnold Ray Potter, Ray Holder, Lloyd Bradshaw, Rev. E. T. Vinson, Wilbur Brown and Noland Leonard.

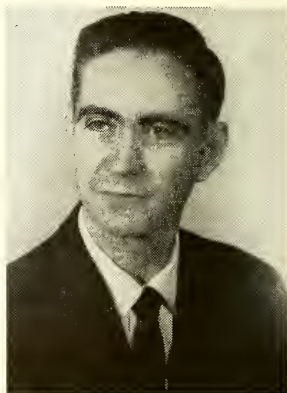


#### Steering Committee — 1966

Left to right are membes of the Steering Committee of the 1966 Forward Program of Christian Stewardship Develoment. Mrs. Wade Everett, secretary; Bill Parham, Training Union Director; Mrs. Marie McKenzie, Telephone Reservation; Mrs. Mary Woolard, Stewardship Promotion; Harris Campbrell, General Chairman; John Kelly, Sunday School Director; A. R. Potter, Budget Planning; R. M. Williams, Dinner Arrangements; Mrs. J. W. Taylor, Children's Party.

The church voted in June of 1967 to proceed immediately with the installation of air conditioning in the new educational building at a cost of \$11,796.

Effective December 18, 1966, Mr. Leroy Nash, who had served as minister of music and educational director for over seven years, resigned to accept a similar position with the Ancient City Baptist Church in St. Augustine, Florida. The Nash family was honored with a reception before their departure and one of the highlights of the program was a presentation of Christmas music by the handbell choir which had been recently organized. There was a total enrollment of approximately 200 members in five choirs Mr. Nash directed.



*Leroy Nash*

While the Personnel Committee was seeking another minister of music and educational director, Carl E. Taylor directed the youth and adult choirs until the church employed Glenn Dunn, a student at Campbell College, to take over this work during the summer months of 1967.





Mrs. Wade Everett

On June 2, 1967, "Mollie Everett Day" was proclaimed at Sunset Park Baptist Church. Mrs. Wade J. Everett, retiring as church secretary after faithfully serving in that capacity for eighteen years, greeted friends, relatives, past and present church members at an afternoon reception given in her honor. Arrangements for this event were directed by Mrs. H. L. (Estelle) Allard.

In addition to her regular duties, Mrs. Everett held many church offices during the period from 1949 to 1967, including fourteen years as church clerk, secretary of Training Union for ten years, president of WMU for two years, treasurer of WMU for sixteen years, secretary and treasurer of the Wilmington Baptist Association for six years, representative for the Biblical Recorder, and church historian for two terms; in addition, she also held places of leadership in Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and circles, and served on the pulpit committee. During the times between pastors, Mrs. Everett was busy "keeping things held together" until the next pastor arrived. This faithful and beloved servant passed on into eternity on August 28, 1971. In her memory, the WMU presented to the church a beautiful silver punch bowl service, appropriately engraved. At the time of her death, Mrs. Everett was secretary to the Friendly Sunday School Class. The name of this class was changed to the Mollie Everett Bible Class in tribute to her example of Christian living.

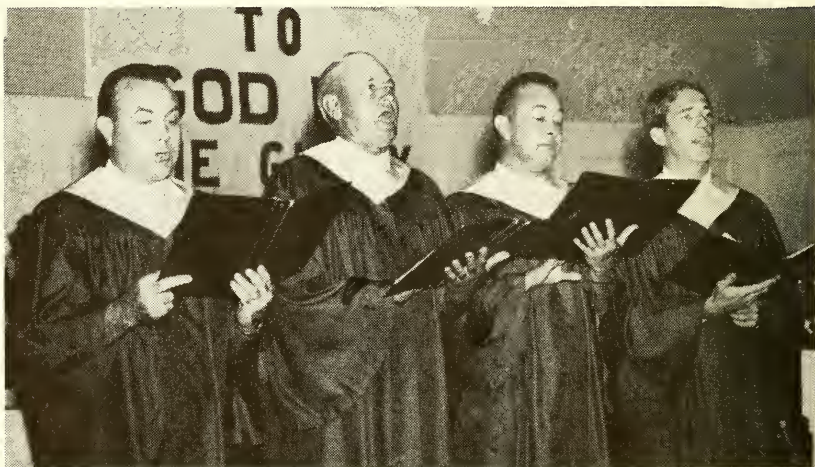
The following committee was appointed by Rev. Vinson to make plans for the church's twenty-fifth anniversary celebration: Mrs. Thurston C. Davis, chairman; J. T. Lee, Mrs. H. E. Duke, Mrs. J. L. Woolard, Wilbur Brown, A. R. Potter, Mrs. M. J. Fountain, Albert Grissom, Mrs. John Kelly and R. M. Williams.

On Friday, September 6, 1967, Sunset Park Baptist Church reached its quarter-of-a-century birthday. The Twenty-Fifth Anniversary, celebrated on Sunday, September 10, was a glorious occasion. Dr. Perry Crouch, executive secretary of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, was guest speaker. Two former pastors, Rev. Greene and Rev. William Lamb, attended. It was homecoming with dinner on the grounds for past and present members and friends. A church history entitled "Twenty-Five Sterling Years", written by Annette H. Davis (Mrs. Thurston), was published and distributed to the church families. A pictorial history of the church, presented by Mr. and Mrs. John Kelly, highlighted the evening worship service. The spirit of the people and the clear evidence of God's presence proved unquestionably to the world that the prevalent slogan of "God is dead" was indeed false doctrine, and our church rejoiced that the Living God had led them through a fruitful twenty-five sterling years.



Participants in morning service on the 25th Anniversary of Sunset Park Baptist Church in 1967. Left to right: Rev. Bill Spradlin, Director of Wilmington Baptist Association; Rev. Ray Rogers, Missionary to Indonesia; Dr. Perry Crouch, General Secretary-Treasurer of N. C. Baptist State Convention, Rev. E. T. Vinson, Pastor; Rev. W. C. Lamb, former pastor; and Rev. A. T. Greene, Jr., former pastor.

From the original membership of 39 in 1942, the church membership had grown by 1967 to 1255, of which 1018 were resident members. The Sunday School enrollment was 857, Training Union membership was 177, and the WMU, including its various organizations, had a total enrollment of 225. Approximately 125 boys and men were active in the Brotherhood program.



25th Anniversary Quartette  
Left to right: Len Danford, C. E. Gosnell, Bill Parham and Gene Sereno



In his "Looking Ahead" message, Rev. Vinson stated, *"The first twenty-five years of our church's life and ministry have become recorded history — both on paper and in God's record book. Without any question, God has revealed Himself to and given guidance to Sunset Park Baptists since that small charter membership in 1942. In many respects, they set out as did Abraham when God called him forth out of Ur. It was a call to faith. By the act of faith, Abraham obeyed the voice of God and went forth to claim the promises of the Lord. . . Many milestones have been reached in every area of our work. . . Inspiring and glorious memories of multitudes of past achievements will linger in our hearts and minds for time and eternity. To-day we face the big question: Where do we go from here? One thing for certain, we have not arrived. The course is not completed. We are not to glory in past achievements to the extent that looking back keeps us from pressing forward. . . As our Lord has opened the windows of heaven upon us in the past, He stands ready and willing to do even greater things for us and with us now and in the approaching years. The only way to go is forward. . . Let us be determined always, regardless of the circumstances, to march forward for Christ. . . ."*

A second-hand activity bus was acquired in 1968, particularly for transportation for the youth. In this connection, someone recommended that the title of "Doctor" be conferred upon Ronald Barnhill and Elmer Hatcher, who time and time again performed internal surgery on the gasping vehicle, restoring it to life and renewed service. One of the excursions by this means of travel was a trip by our Junior and Senior High School youth to Williamsburg, Virginia, expenses for which were earned through various fund-raising projects by the students themselves. Later, in 1974, this bus was sold and replaced with a new 40-passenger activity bus, costing approximately \$12,700. A used 15-passenger bus was also purchased in 1978 for \$2,500 to be used for small group transportation purposes.



Happy young people on arrival of new bus in 1974

On January 1, 1970, Rev. Vinson resigned as pastor of Sunset Park Baptist Church, to begin his new work with the First Baptist Church in Scotland Neck, North Carolina.

On the very day our church was celebrating its Twenty-Fifth Anniversary, a message was received stating that Ray Holder of High Point, North Carolina, had accepted the call to become Minister of Music and Education at Sunset Park Baptist Church. Mr. Holder was well-known by his work in our own Baptist State Convention, and his latest position was Minister of Music and Education with First Baptist Church in Cherryville, North Carolina. Rev. Vinson wrote: *"My soul is thrilled at the possibility of Mr. Holder's coming to our church. For months our Personnel Committee has searched out the will of God as we all have united in prayer. We feel that our search has ended — our prayers answered. Let's give to this man of God an overwhelming vote, for sincerely we believe this man's ministry in our midst could result in our stepping forth with a tremendous thrust into the second twenty-five years of our church's history."*

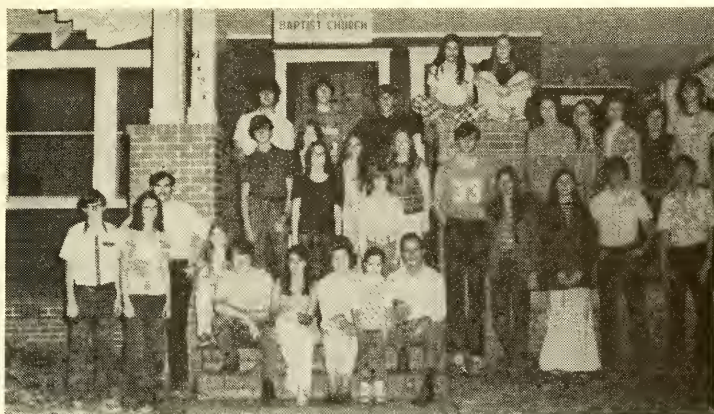
During Mr. Holder's five-year ministry here, special emphasis was placed in organizing choirs of all ages, and under his direction, the Youth Choir, in particular, became well-known for its performance in many outstanding religious choral productions. His duties as Minister of Music and Education, as set forth by the Personnel Committee of the church, included the responsibilities of supervising the functioning of all the church organizations and being a member ex-officio of all committees. He also was very active in the work of the Wilmington Baptist Association.

In appreciation of his leadership and service, the young people of the church honored Mr. Holder and his family at the special dedication of the Youth Recreation Center in the "Brown House" located at 2060 Adams Street. This recreational facility was established under Mr. Holder's supervision, to give the young people a place to gather and enjoy Christian fellowship and guidance. The young people themselves performed the renovation work necessary to make the project a reality.

Mr. Holder resigned effective October 29, 1972, to become the Minister of Music and Education at Reavis Memorial Baptist Church in High Point, North Carolina. In his letter of resignation, Mr. Holder said, *"I will leave with a heavy heart. I give to Christ the glory for any accomplishments great or small. When I came to this church, I said to you that this church had a challenge that not many churches have. I still feel that way, but unless the membership of this church will permit themselves to be led by the Holy Spirit in all that they do and say, the challenge will go unmet. With dedicated and committed membership, the future of this church is as bright as the promises of God."* Jack Allen said, *"With deep regret and a broken heart, I move that the resignation be accepted."* Rev. Henry B. Anderson, interim pastor, stated, *"Roy Holder's resignation means a tremendous loss to me personally."*

Until the arrival later of a new Minister of Music and Education, Bill Parham led the choirs and congregational singing.

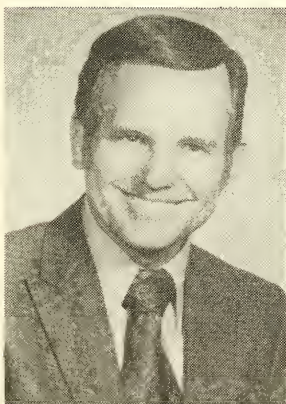




Group in front of the Brown House, Church Youth Center 1972-1982

Behind the scenes in any organization, there are moments of calamity, suspense or humor. Such a happening — really, a near tragedy — occurred on the last Sunday evening of August 1972. Rev. Mehaffey, pastor of our neighboring Sunset Park Methodist Church requested permission to use our baptistry to baptize one of his new members who preferred to be immersed instead of sprinkled. Of course, we were happy to oblige. When the Baptismal Committee members in charge that night, Thurston Davis and E. P. Davis, did a last-minute check on the facility, they discovered that the thermostat was not working properly and the water temperature was “about halfway to the bubbling boiling point.” The two men rushed out and bought a quarter-ton block of ice which they dumped into the water just in time to cool it sufficiently for bearable use. (Suppose our Methodist friends had been boiled alive!!!)

## X



Rev. Jason Ross  
1970-1972

Acting upon the recommendation of the pulpit committee, the church extended a call to Rev. Jason Ross, pastor of the Middle River Baptist Church in Baltimore, Maryland. The call was accepted and Rev. Ross preached his first sermon as our new pastor on Sunday, November 1, 1970.

Like other pastors before him, Rev. Ross' emphasis was on the heart of the Great Commission, “Go ye, therefore, and make disciples of all men. . .” Quoting from one of his letters, he said, *“Let us recapture that compassion and concern and again go out to win the lost to Christ. This is the program that our Lord gave us.”* A renewed visitation program was put into action on Thursday nights and this spiritual

interest in others was greatly responsible for Sunset Park Church leading all other churches in the Wilmington Baptist Association with fifty-six baptisms during the 1970-71 year.

Another door was opened unto our church to reach more people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ when Mr. Ross' Sunday morning sermons were taped and broadcast over the local WKLM radio station. Beginning in January 1971, this program continued for a year, when it was stopped until such time better equipment and a more effective broadcast period could be obtained.

A never-to-be-forgotten tour to the Holy Land was organized and conducted by Rev. Ross in March 1972. The following members of our church joined others from this area in the visit to that part of the world so precious to all Christendom: Mrs. Paula Teague, Mrs. Louise Branch, Mrs. Dorothy Barnhill (Keith), Mrs. Frances Rouse, Mrs. Lucille Collier, Mrs. Beulah Thompson, and Mrs. Roma Lee Hall. It was quite thrilling for this group of Christians to spend Palm Sunday in the Holy Land, and during the trip Rev. Ross delivered a message from Mars Hill, the location from which Paul preached to the people of biblical time. Many beautiful and significant pictures and slides were taken on the tour and shared afterwards with those who did not go.

Rev. Ross' challenging sermons and a demand on his preaching for revivals left no doubt that his favorite field of Christian endeavor was evangelism. After only nineteen months' stay in Sunset Park Baptist Church, he tendered his resignation, effective July 1, 1972, and revealed his plans to become a full-time evangelist, continuing his residence in Wilmington.

## XI

The loss of our pastor brought our church into another crisis and challenged us to put our shoulders to the wheel and push and pull together. The intervening ten months seemed very long before the ten-member pulpit committee found the man God had chosen to become our next pastor, but during this time the church staff, committees, and individual members assumed extra responsibilities to keep things going. In a letter which appeared in the Beacon dated November 11, 1972, Doug Cline, chairman of the Board of Deacons and also chairman of the pulpit committee, thanked Mr. Holder in particular for going beyond his many appointed duties during this trying time.

During all the interim periods between pastors for the church, we have had many wonderful servants of God to speak out from our pulpit. We feel that one of these supply pastors, Rev. Nathan Brooks, almost belonged to us. He endeared himself to our hearts and preached more sermons in our church than any other one supply pastor.

In January 1971, the church joined with other Baptists in our Association and State in bereavement over the death of Rev. Spradlin, Associational missionary for Wilmington and area.

In January 1971, the Board of Deacons recommended that a printed copy of the minutes of the church conferences be passed out to each member attending the business sessions. To the minutes would be attached a monthly financial report and activity reports from various committees and organizations. This plan was accepted and has proven very helpful in keeping the membership updated on what's going on in the life of the church.

For many months in 1972, friction reared its ugly head among the congregation. Disagreement in personnel matters was widespread, but on September 3, 1972, the church rejoiced as Rev. Henry B. Anderson became the first official interim pastor to serve until the pulpit committee would again be directed to the man God had waiting and ready to be our spiritual leader on a full-time basis. Rev. Anderson was no stranger in Wilmington, having served as interim pastor at other local churches. His straightforward preaching of the Gospel and his direct admonitions to the membership to get their house in order, poured soothing oil upon troubled waters. He captured the love and admiration of all who knew him and led the church through trying months. While here, he represented Sunset Park Baptist Church at the 1972 State Baptist Convention. He returned to be guest speaker at the special Bicentennial services on June 27, 1976. Rev. Anderson was with us until April 29, 1973, or eight months, when he returned to his home base in Raleigh to continue his retirement years in active service to God. On the eve of his leaving, a "dutch" family fellowship dinner was held in his honor at Whitey's Restaurant. This church, along with all Baptist churches within and beyond the State, mourned at Rev. Anderson's death on December 6, 1980.



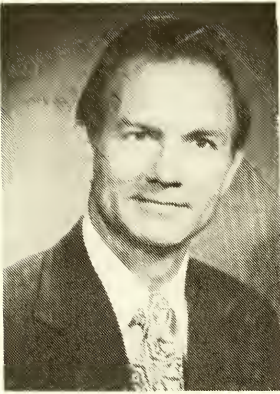
Rev. Henry B. Anderson, interim pastor, surrounded by Deacons.

Seated: C. E. Gosnell, Rev. Anderson, Arnold Ray Potter, D. T. Branch.

Standing: Jack Allen, Len Danford, Richard Pace, Earl Ward, John Kelly, Jim Seay, Thurston Davis, and Ronald Barnhill.



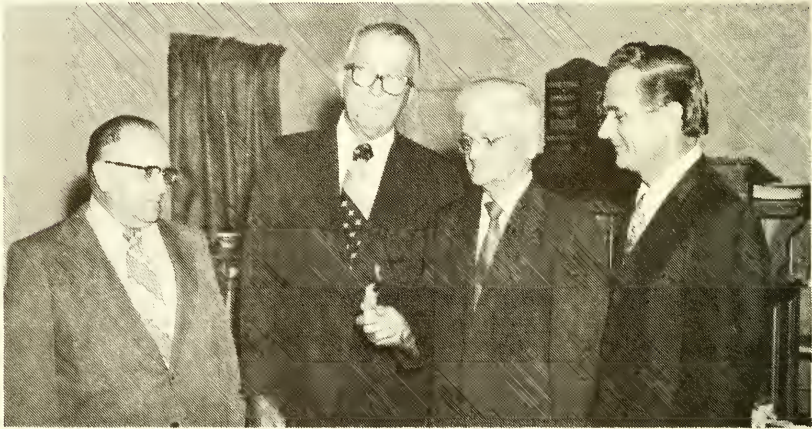
## XII



Rev. Joe Zimmerman  
1973-1974

At a reception held May 6, 1973, Rev. Joe Zimmerman, former pastor of Fellowship Baptist Church in Raleigh, North Carolina, was welcomed as the ninth full-time pastor of Sunset Park Baptist Church. Rev. Henry B. Anderson, retiring interim pastor, urged the church members to *"Please give your loyal support to your new pastor and pray that God will give Sunset Park a more wonderful future than you can possibly dream of to the glory of our Risen Lord. God bless every one of you."*

Rev. Zimmerman placed special emphasis on the weekly prayer meetings and fellowship suppers. Also during this pastorate, the mortgage debt on the Immanuel Baptist Church was paid in full and the note was burned in a special service on August 26, 1973.



Burning of mortgage note on Immanuel Baptist Mission Building  
Left to right: Rev. Robert Jernigan, Mission Pastor, J. V. Tomberlin, R. A. Armstrong  
and Rev. Joe Zimmerman, Pastor of the Mother Church.

With Sunset Park Baptist Church only eleven months, Rev. Zimmerman resigned to become pastor of the Angier Baptist Church of Angier, North Carolina. His last sermon to our congregation was on April 21, 1974.

In the August 1973 church conference, it was voted to call Marty Phillips as Minister of Music and Education and Youth, beginning September 2, 1973. Working very closely with the youth of the church, Marty promoted the music program until November 24, 1974, when, in a special church conference, he read his letter of resignation after he had accepted a position with the Immanuel Baptist Church in Lancaster, South Carolina.





Entertainment Team at Banquet for Rev. Henry B. Anderson  
 Left to right: Marty Phillips, Carl E. Taylor, Gene Sereno, Len Danford,  
 and Judy Harper, accompanist.

Sunset Park Baptist Church has had for many years a budgeted allotment for the International Seamen's Center which is located at the local North Carolina State Port. The purpose of this agency is to minister to the welfare of the seamen while their ships are in port being loaded and unloaded. Undenominational in its ministry, the center is operated and supported through local interested churches. Sunset Park Baptist Church is the closest Baptist church to the site, and several of our members are volunteer workers, helping to create a pleasant Christian environment for the crew members, most of whom come from far distant lands. Some, but not many, of the men have attended our worship services.

Rev. E. W. Pate, retired local Baptist minister, was called to be the second full-time interim pastor for Sunset Park Baptist Church. Although retired from the pastorate of the First Baptist Church of Locust, North Carolina, he had not retired from preaching God's word. (Many of our members had attended Calvary Baptist Church in Wilmington while Rev. Pate served as pastor of that church.) Beginning on September 1, 1974, until October 2, 1974, Rev. Pate was with us as interim pastor for only five weeks before our present pastor, Rev. Horace L. Jackson, became the tenth shepherd of our flock. (Rev. Pate passed on to his eternal reward on January 13, 1975.)

### XIII



Rev. Horace L. Jackson  
1974-

Resigning as pastor of the Franklinton Baptist Church in Franklinton, North Carolina, Rev. Horace L. Jackson began his duties as the spiritual leader of Sunset Park Baptist Church on October 13, 1974. In his acceptance letter to the church, he wrote, "*. . . I pledge to you and to God my life and my work.*" His ministry, which continues today, has been a busy one, very innovative. One of the first acts of this new pastor was to visit the homes of every church family to get acquainted first-hand with the members. Many accomplishments have been made in the eight years of his ministry. He is ever reminding his congregation that Jesus never told his disciples to sit down and wait for sinners to come to them. His active visitation

and witnessing program has brought in new members and also brought back into our worship services many who have been absent a long time. He speaks out boldly against immorality, and he personally chaired the Anti-League Against Liquor by the Drink in New Hanover County. Also, he led in the fight against imposing the Human Development and Sexuality curriculum in our public school system.



The Staff on KP duty — serving at Men's Breakfast  
Left to right: Bill Smith, Rev. Horace Jackson, C. L. Smith and Lee Ray Greene

Beginning March 31, 1975, Rev. C. L. King assumed the duties as Minister of Music at Sunset Park Baptist Church, after resigning from that position with the Franklinton Baptist Church in Franklinton, North Carolina. An ordained Baptist minister, specializing in music and singing as a very important way to worship and praise God, he has organized choirs for every age

group and has directed many musicales. A brass ensemble, organized by C. L., has performed at many church functions. A new Allen Organ was purchased in August 1976 at a cost of \$17,000.

On June 1, 1976, another ordained Baptist minister, Rev. William L. Smith, Jr., joined the church staff as Minister of Education and Outreach. Many duties of his position were itemized in a two-page job description. In the ministry of outreach, he would "organize and direct a church-wide outreach program through the organizations and the evangelism committee of the church." In a note in the Beacon, he wrote: *"My family and I have arrived at our destination, Sunset Park Baptist Church. We are happy to be a part of such a fellowship as this. We feel that God has led us here and as we work together I hope that it will be for one common goal, i.e. to serve our God in all areas of life, that it might be for His Kingdom and His Glory."*



Staff Members at Celebration of Bicentennial 1976

Left to right: Hazel and Rev. Jackson, Pastor; Geneva and C. L. King, Minister of Music; Ann and Bill Smith, Minister of Education and Outreach.

America's 200th birthday occurred on Sunday, July 4, 1976. Our week-long church observance began on Sunday, June 27th, with Rev. Henry B. Anderson, former interim pastor, as guest speaker at the morning worship service. Vesper services and a picnic at Babcock & Wilcox park closed the first day's activities. On Wednesday, the Youth Choir presented "The Sound of America" and Mr. Jack Caraway of the Brotherhood of the North Carolina Baptist Convention showed slides on the lives of the nation's presidents. On Friday, a "Golden Age Patriotic Variety Show" was presented in the fellowship hall, featuring a chorus of senior adults, with the spotlight on Elizabeth Teague and her tambourine. Homecoming with dinner on the grounds on July 4th climaxed the week. Rev. Horace Jackson's topic for the morning worship sermon was "Freedom's Holy Light" and that afternoon



the Chancel and College-Career Choirs presented "I Love America" in the church sanctuary. The musical presentations were directed by C. L. King, minister of music. Many of the congregation dressed in colonial costumes. Mrs. Dorothy Moore chaired the Bicentennial Committee, further composed of Mesdames Lamenta Kelly, Gladys Spell, Annette Davis, Loleta Adkins, Ellen Parham, Frances Anderson, Geneva King; and Cameron Morgan, Len Danford, Ray Barnhill, J. V. Tomberlin and John Browning.



God and Country Day — 1982

Bill Oaks attaches flag to pole while Thurston Davis, Bill Smith and Glen Sellars hold ladder. Rev. Jackson looks on. (The flag waves proudly in picture on front cover of this book.)

For many years, Sunset Park Baptist Church conducted special services honoring our country's birthday, mainly with patriotic sermons and music and, in most years, a picnic in the park. Beginning in 1978, however, an annual God and Country Day was instituted, to be observed on the Sunday closest to July 4th. The theme in 1978 was "On A Mission for God and Coun-



try", and nine speakers were on the agenda: VFW Commander George B. Reed; American Legion Post Commander Alfred H. McGuire; New Hanover County Sheriff H. G. Grohman; Wilmington Police Chief Darryl L. Bruestle; Wilmington Mayor Ben B. Halterman; Chairman of New Hanover County Board of Commissioners Claude O'Shields, Jr.; N. C. Congressman Tommy S. Rhodes; U. S. Congressman Charlie Rose; and former U. S. Congressman Alton A. Lennon, who was the main speaker. In subsequent years, other outstanding speakers have been: (1979) Rev. W. C. Lamb, former pastor, whose dynamic message was "The Glory of God"; (1980) Bobby Richardson, former second baseman for the New York Yankees, who chose for his subject, "To Win and Yet Lose"; (1981) Clebe McClary, wounded Vietnam War veteran USMC, who gave a thrilling witness for the Lord; and (1982) Harold Morris, former death row prisoner, who recounted his life story and conversion, using "Loyalty" as his theme. This annual service becomes more meaningful each year as we contemplate on the blessings God has bestowed on our land which was founded on religious principles, yet is leaning progressively farther and farther away from God. The 1982 God and Country Day also included dedication of the beautiful 30' aluminum flag pole given to the church by Bill Oaks and his family, and the presentation of a 5' x 8' American Flag by Thurston Davis from the Woodmen of the World.

For several years the church has provided a schedule of daily scripture verses to enable members to read through the entire Bible in twelve months. In addition to 1976 being a historical date in our nation's history, that year will be remembered for the program, "Reading the Bible through in 54 hours." This was accomplished by volunteer church members taking 30-minute periods of reading the Bible aloud at the church, beginning at 12:00 noon on December 29 and ending 6:00 P.M. December 31.



Helpers at 1977 Homecoming

Left to Right: Sammy Edwards, Glen Sellars, Carl Taylor, Linwood Keith, J. R. Edwards, Ed King, Charlie Adkins and Joe Bostic.

Lee Ray Greene served Sunset Park Baptist Church as Minister of Youth and Recreation from October 1977 to May 1979. He was a very popular leader and his calendar stayed full of activities for the youth, such as promoting church and Sunday School attendance, Bible study, an enthusiastic athletic program, interesting trips, and a visitation schedule that resulted in many prospects. Under his direction, several of our young people became involved in a wood-cutting project sponsored by the Voluntary Action Center for the needy. "Lee Ray Greene Appreciation Day" was observed on April 29, 1979. Later, Lee Ray and his wife (the former Beth Cain) became foreign missionaries to Tanzania, East Africa.

In 1976, the church turned special attention to organizing a new ministry geared especially for senior adults. The "club" was known as the XYZ'ers (the initials meaning Xtra Years of Zest). Thurston C. Davis was elected as the first president of the organization and he has continued in that capacity through the intervening years. Other members on the XYZ Committee have included Carl Taylor, Hugh Garris, Fred Kersey, T. V. Allen, Eva Davis, Lillian Edwards, Annette Davis, Iva Ellis Byrne, Frank Byrne, Louise Branch, Melva Barnes, Laura Bostic, Elizabeth Teague and Gladys Wilson. A wholesome program of singing, devotional messages, games, entertainment, and a covered dish luncheon ("fit for a king") is provided at each meeting. Sunset Park Baptist Church always has good representation at the Quarterly Wilmington Baptist Associational Senior Adult Rallies. As the president describes the XYZ'ers, "We're just a happy bunch of young people who've been around a long time." Beginning in 1979, the members have created a beautiful Chrismon Christmas Tree for the church each year. Several out-of-town trips have been taken to various points of interest in this area; many visits have been made to the Village Dinner Theatre in Raleigh to enjoy the live floor shows; a two-day trip to see Old Salem and the



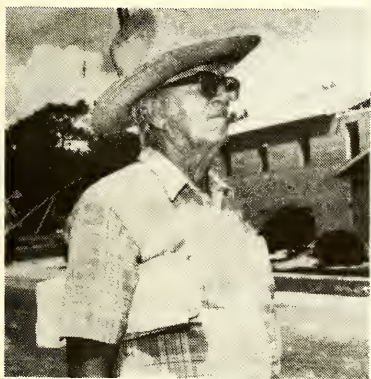
Chrismon Tree  
made by XYZ Members

Chinquapen Plantation was enjoyed in 1981. One of the most outstanding events was in October '79 when fourteen members spent five days at Ridgecrest attending the Senior Adult Chautauqua sponsored by the Southern Baptist Convention. Each day was filled with a worthwhile program and the whole experience was a spiritual rejuvenation. An exciting moment occurred when one of the ladies (your historian) was locked up alone in the elevator for a suspenseful fifteen or twenty minutes that seemed like hours. After that, many others thought the elevator was jinxed and they chose to pantingly climb the steep stairways! Cathy and David Willis were the first activities coordinators and bus drivers for the group. After they left to work at Broyhill, Barbara and Ed King became the junior leaders for these

seniors. Thirty-three persons joined the XYZ'ers 1982 trip to Kenansville, North Carolina, to see the outdoor drama, "Liberty Cart".

Fourteen years had passed since the new educational building was completed and there had been no additional building program. In 1977, the time had come again for us to erect another unit to meet the needs of an ever-growing congregation and an ever-changing ministry of an unchanging Christ. To raise the amount needed seemed to some an impossible task in the economic situation of the day; and yet, the existing buildings were built and paid for during some of the worst economic periods the world had ever known. As Rev. Jackson wrote to the people, *"...Sunset Park Baptist Church stands at a crucial crossroads of her life and ministry. It is at this time that we have an opportunity to go forward for God in the last quarter of this century ... This church has a glorious past. The reputation of the sacrifice and ministry of those who labored in days gone by make me proud to be a part of this church today. Will those who come after us feel we did our best? The future can be even brighter if we match the spirit of the past ... Building to do God's work for today and tomorrow will take equal sacrifice and commitment from each of us ... As your spiritual leader, I will not ask you to do more than I am willing to do. Not equal gifts, but equal sacrifice. ... Let God in on what you do and then with God and each other, we will build together."*

Thus, the "Together We Build" program was launched on September 18, 1977. This program was a 156-week plan to raise money for our building. During this period, each church member was asked to pledge above his regular tithe. Funds raised in this manner would enable us to make fuller use of God's money. It was thought that we could save approximately \$900 in interest for each \$1000 we paid in cash for the new building. The "Victory Goal" was a minimum of \$250,000. Jack W. Allen was appointed director of the Steering Committee. Others serving on this committee were Arnold Ray Potter, Dorothy G. Moore, Douglas G. Cline, John Kelly, Anna M. Mintz, Ellen G. Parham, Cameron Morgan, Estelle J. Allard, Elsie and Paul Beery.



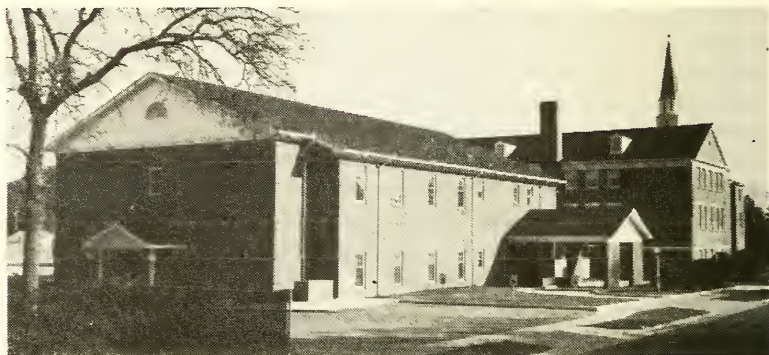
J. V. Tomberlin keeping vigilance over construction of new addition to the church complex.

J. V. Tomberlin was appointed chairman of the Building Committee, and he was at the site at all hours of day or night. Also on the Building Committee were R. L. Honeycutt, E. N. Hardie, Joe Bostic, Howard Lindsey, C. E. Gosnell, Doug Cline and Bobby Harrelson. B. R. Dorsett was employed as foreman of the construction.

Construction was expected to begin in 1979, but unforeseen obstacles and tremendous cost increases in materials and labor necessitated a change in plans. The building was completed and dedicated to God on November 2, 1980.



The success of the "Together We Build" program in meeting its goal prompted the church, under the same committee leadership, to move into a three-year "Together We Grow" program to enable the church to be free of all indebtedness. Jack Allen, chairman of the Steering Committee, commented, ". . . *We must keep the faith and commitment in order that God complete what He has begun. . . . Again we will witness a miracle of God through togetherness and commitment,*" and he quoted Psalm 118:23, "*This is the Lord's doing. It is marvelous in our eyes.*" The goal of this second phase of the building program was set at \$242,496.44. In 1982 at the two-thirds point of the time schedule, the amount that has been collected in the new building fund totals \$129,338.



View of new building containing fellowship hall, church offices, and Department V Sunday School classrooms.

During the renovations of 1980, the church library was relocated and revamped. Today there are more than 1720 books on the shelves. The attractiveness of this department, which also includes our audio-visual equipment, beckons to our people to enter and enjoy the wholesome benefits of this cultural center. The library has really become the second home of Miss Mildred Taylor, retired public school librarian, as she conscientiously puts her talents to work by spending hours and hours each week in promoting reading benefits through broader use of the library by all ages in our membership. On August 8, 1971, the church voted to buy a new book for the library, in lieu of the church sending a floral tribute to the family of a deceased member. Such books would be inscribed with the deceased's name and the family would be notified by letter that their loved one's memory had been perpetuated in this manner. Many individuals also place books in the library for this purpose.

A Memorial Hymnal Fund was begun in 1981 in honor of Gene Sereno and Lamanta Kelly, two enthusiastic members of the Chancel Choir, whose unexpected deaths occurred in the same week. More than a sufficient amount was contributed to buy new Baptist Hymnals for the church. Each book is marked with identification showing in whose honor the hymnal was given. Many memorials in honor of deceased church members are made by individuals to the church building fund.



In appreciation of Rev. Jackson's spiritual leadership for almost four years, Sunday, March 19, 1978, was declared "Pastor Appreciation Day". Entitled "Tribute to our Pastor", the following article appeared on the front of the weekly Beacon: "...What can we say about this man, Horace Jackson? How can you describe him? First, he is an incomparable preacher of the Word of God. He loves God's Word and he preaches it faithfully week after week. Second, Brother Horace has vision and faith which encompasses the world. He is innovative and daring. He stands for what is right and just among all men. He dreams dreams that most of us never even think about. Many of these dreams we have seen become realities. He is always positive in his actions and commitments to men and God. He is very conscious of the power of God. He has stated on many occasions that 'I am fearful of what God might do to me if I am not obedient in giving and committing myself to Him.' His faith is indeed great. Third, he loves people deeply. Brother Horace loves the little children and older adults; he loves youth and young adults — in fact, he loves all of us and he knows most of us by name. Fourth, he is the greatest motivator of men we have ever known. He excites and inspires us and makes us try to do things that we did not know we could do. Brother Horace loves Sunset Park Baptist Church and Sunset Park Baptist Church loves him and his family.

"Whatever the past has been, however exciting and inspiring, the future holds much more. No one knows the multitudes who will come this way and find Christ. No one knows the influence this church can have upon the world.

"Brother Horace, as we continue to serve together as pastor and church, side by side, lovingly and faithfully, our prayer is that God will continue to reap a great and bountiful harvest in this tremendous world. WE LOVE YOU, PASTOR, and what you represent in this world. May God bless you and give you vision for His Kingdom and Glory."

Subsequent Pastor Appreciation Days have been observed.

1979 was declared worldwide by the United Nations as "The Year of the Child." However, seven members of our church did not need inspiration from this designation to find themselves in their chosen positions to minister to the children in our North Carolina Baptist Childrens Homes. These members answered to the call through their desire to serve God in any way they could, motivated especially by their love for children and those in need. In 1978, Bill and Frances Anderson started a new career as house parents at Mills Home in Thomasville, North Carolina, and were joined in 1979 by John and Mary Ann Browning in a similar position. Carl and Ruthe Sublett left our congregation to become house parents at Kennedy Home in Kinston, and Alene Williamson reported early in 1980 for special nursing duty at Mills Home. Cathy and David Willis applied for work at Broyhill Home in late summer of 1981, and immediately their application was accepted, effective September 1. Returning visits from these workers, sometimes with the children in their charge, find them beaming in joy in their service to God and children. They are truly some of our great home missionaries.

Along this line of helping children, but not quite in the same category, Al Grissom, one of our church members, has become benefactor supreme, accor-

ding to the children at the Kennedy Home, where, as at the other campuses of the Baptist Childrens Homes, gardening is a big business. In the summer, children and house parents alike spend many sweltering hours picking assorted vegetables from the huge campus garden and preparing them for canning and freezing. From now on, however, the tiring, cumbersome job of shelling butter beans by hand will be accomplished in a snap by a machine designed and engineered by Grissom. He named his invention "Albert's Butter Bean Extractor King." The apparatus will shell a bushel of butter beans in five minutes flat!

In 1979, on the occasion of the church's thirty-seventh observance of its organization, Rev. Jackson's challenge to his people appeared in this manner in the Beacon: *"The Church of Jesus Christ must never lapse into a state of self-satisfaction. Rigormortis will set in, which means death and defeat. We must maintain our sense of mission and venture as we exercise our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ — the head of the church. As we celebrate the 37th Anniversary of our church on September 6 and this Lord's Day, let us catch a vision of new mountains to climb for the glory of God. The church house and church were built by men and women who had vision, who stepped out in faith and gave sacrificially of their time, talents and money. Will we do less? While the world is looking for greener valleys, let us say with Caleb of old, 'Give us these mountains.'"*

Rev. Phil Wiggins, an ordained Baptist minister, joined our church staff in August 1979 and immediately threw himself into full-time activities as Minister of Youth. During his stay in Sunset Park Baptist Church, he directed the first Children's Church for ages 1-6 grades. This program was highly successful, and as one little boy expressed it, "We do and learn a lot of things in our church." Phil resigned on December 28, 1980, to enter the seminary for further pastoral training in order to serve God in an even greater way. After his departure, Bill Smith conducted the Children's Church until his help was needed elsewhere when two morning worship services began. It is planned to re-establish the Children's Church when another Minister of Youth is employed. Peggy McCabe served as music director for the Children's Church. In 1982 she accepted the position as Minister of Music at Wrightsboro Baptist Church.

At one time in 1980 there were six ordained ministers of the Gospel in our church membership: Four on the staff — Rev. Horace Jackson, Rev. C. L. King, Rev. Bill Smith and Rev. Phil Wiggins; and two in the congregation — Rev. Linwood Todd and Rev. Bradley Suggs.

In 1981, for the first time in the history of our church, lay members were allowed to be messengers to the North Carolina Baptist Convention.

One of the most beautiful services ever conducted in Sunset Park Baptist Church was the Marriage Vow Renewal Ceremony on June 21, 1981. Participating couples of all ages reaffirmed their love and pledges to each other. One observer said that during the solemn seriousness of repeating vows, she saw peace-loving E. P. Davis, a devoted husband in everyone's opinion, slap his wife Eva! Shocked by this action, the lady later inquired of

E. P. why he was fighting. His explanation, believe it or not, was that there was a big ugly bug crawling on Eva's dress, and he was willing to risk being called a wife-beater rather than take a chance on that vicious-looking insect biting her.



C. E. Gosnell

A recognition service and reception honoring Mr. C. E. Gosnell on Sunday evening, September 13, 1981, was sponsored by the Men's Fellowship Bible Class of Sunset Park Baptist Church. At that time, Mr. Gosnell had been teacher of this class for twenty years — and he continues in that position. Members of the class led in the service as follows: Welcome and announcements by Earl Williamson, class president; prayers by Stacy Bragg, E. P. Davis and E. L. Hickman; special presentations by Clint Donald and J. V. Tomberlin. "The Touch of the Master's Hand" was read by Thurston Davis, followed by Carl Taylor singing "He Touched Me." "The Lord's Prayer" was sung by Wilbur B. Brown as benediction. Rev. Jackson's evening message was "Growing Faith." Ushers were E. L. Hickman, C. N. Long, R. P.

Spivey and Richard H. Pace. The Fellowship Class, as a token of their appreciation, presented Mr. Gosnell a plaque appropriately inscribed and a copy of "Eerdman's Handbook of the Bible." In addition to being a devoted teacher, Mr. Gosnell is a former Sunday School superintendent, trustee, deacon, and faithful member of the Chancel Choir.

Great emphasis is placed upon maintaining a wholesome Christian youth program. Today, a brick building on the church property is provided as a youth center (the "brown house" having been sold). Our young people have always merited commendation for their many activities — their participation in the church services, recreational sports (evidenced by the many trophies on display in the library), presenting numerous musicals and singing in regional choir festivals, putting on programs at local nursing homes, etc. Trips to various points have been enjoyed, with the youth working hard to provide funds for their expenses. They have gained lots of sales experience in their fund-raising efforts, such as bake sales, yard sales, fish fries, pig pickin's, donut sales, car washes, pancake and sausage breakfasts, and walkathons. In times when space is being conquered and explored, when wars continue in many places around the world, when drug traffic is increasing by leaps and bounds, when crime stalks the streets, even in our own immediate community, the presence of so many young people in church services is thrilling — and yet there are countless unreached persons on the outside. In GA and RA organizations, the boys and girls develop a keenness for missions to meet the needs of the universe.

**Missions In Action** — In the summer of 1981, thirteen adults and twenty-seven youths set out for Mill Creek Church in West Virginia on a real mis-



sion venture. Many prayers and several months of planning and preparation preceded the trip. Numerous projects helped raise needed funds, but in addition to all monies raised, each person making the trip paid out \$55.00 from their own pocket. Traveling in the church bus and three private vehicles, the group departed from Wilmington early Monday morning, August 10, and arrived that evening at Camp Pioneer, a 4-H campground near Mill Creek, which was to be their place of residence during their visit.

The young people were divided into small groups, with one youth leader to train each group. Once in West Virginia, the young people led and taught, and the adults acted as resource people or aides to each group. The week was jam-packed with various activities — Vacation Bible School, revival services with Bill Smith preaching, a backyard Bible Club in a trailer park; also, at the request of the pastor, Rev. Ray Wyatt, taking a census of the surrounding area, assisting with a program in Beverly at the Adult Activity Center with the mentally retarded and handicapped, and conducting service at the mother church in Elkins. On Friday night the youth presented their new musical, "Breakfast in Galilee" on the Chapel lawn, directed by C. L. King. On Saturday they joined the Chapel congregation at the river for a baptismal service and picnic. Seven professions of faith and many other decisions were made during the week. New Testaments and other helpful literature were left at the Chapel.

While they were about God's business, spreading His Word to the people in a very remote mountain locality, no one thought it just a happen-so that no daytime rain fell at Mill Creek during their week — most unusual because the people there said it always rained some every day in August. Had it rained, Bible School could not have functioned well indoors. Also, no bus or other vehicle problems were experienced. (The tail pipe did fall off the bus on the return trip, but this caused no delay or inconvenience.)

Leaving Mill Creek early on Monday morning, August 17, our then experienced missionaries spent a day at King's Dominion for fun, arriving safely back home on the 19th.

As Barbara King reported, "We were so proud of our youth in action. Capable! Well-disciplined! Cooperative! Superb!"

Participating in this mission thrust were: Adults: Bill and Ann Smith, C. L. and Geneva King, David and Cathy Willis, Allan and Sheila Russ, Ed and Barbara King, Joanne Harrellson, Peggy McCabe and Debbie Oaks; youth: Chris Branch, Ronnie Branch, Chris King, Johnny Stout, Tim Bass, Joel Joyce, Mark Hood, Mark Blanton, Terry Mallard, David Willis, Alan Rivenbark, Vickie Horrell, Sherri Sereno, Kay Wiggs, Karen Gurganous, Sharon Gurganous, Diane Deaver, Amanda Bennett, Rene Teachey, Cindy Teachey, Debbie Horne, Greta Harrellson, Kim Harrellson, Debbie Tackett, Latessa Smith, Dorothy Willis and Susie Insley.

Three special offerings are taken during the year for missions: Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for foreign missions, Annie Armstrong Offering for home missions, and the Heck-Jones Offering for state missions. A very interesting aspect of our annual contribution to foreign missions would be

overlooked if no mention were made of the fact that our Lottie Moon Program has put our people into direct "competition" with the United States Post Office! By providing a special "post office" in the downstairs lobby for a membership Christmas card exchange, the savings resulting by not buying postage stamps is deposited into a Lottie Moon Offering receptacle. This new version of the post office game has proven popular and gainful for its cause.

Held annually during the summertime, Vacation Bible School is a great success in teaching the Bible. Manned by able, experienced leaders (like Carole Branch and Shirley Jacobs, for example) and scores of other workers, the morning hours are filled with singing, scripture study, crafts and missionary emphasis. It is amazing how much can be learned in a week's time, even by very young children. A voluntary offering is taken to further mission work through projects voted on by the pupils. For instance, one year the school bought a communion set for Mr. and Mrs. Joe Deaton to use in their mission ministry; another year a bicycle was purchased for crewmen to use as a means of transportation while their ships were docked at the Wilmington State Port. Three hundred and one persons were enrolled in the 1982 Vacation Bible School. As usual, the week was exciting, challenging, motivating and, most of all, it stood for friendship, compassion and love. An evening Bible study for adults is taught by the pastor.

A letter received from J. W. Hutchens, Jr., Director of Evangelism of the Baptist State Convention, stated that Sunset Park Baptist Church had the twelfth largest number of baptisms (62) of any Baptist church in North Carolina in 1981!

Two morning worship services were begun in 1980 to accommodate the increased church service attendance. The early service began at 8:30 and the second service remained at the usual hour of 11:00. This schedule remained in effect until May 2, 1982, which will go down in the history of Sunset Park Baptist Church as "Historical Sunday." This was the beginning date for dual Sunday School and dual worship services. The new plan schedules Bible study at 9:45 to 10:45 A.M. and again at 11:00 to 12:00 Noon. Worship services are held at these same hours. As Rev. Jackson stated, *"This is a great day in the life of this great church. The Lord has blessed us in so many ways and we praise His powerful name."* The program was necessitated due to the shortage of space for the growing Sunday School; and it was not considered feasible at this time to launch into another building program.

It was the policy of the church since it was organized to provide a parsonage in which the pastor and his family would live. Year by year, the growing general trend in churches has been to allow their ministers the privilege of buying a home, with the church paying them a house allowance. Such was the case at Sunset Park Baptist Church when, in 1982, the church sold to Rev. Horace Jackson for \$28,000 the church parsonage located on the corner of Washington Street and Northern Boulevard. This relieved the church of the responsibility of maintenance and upkeep on the property. Our church is fortunate that our pastors have always lived in the immediate vicinity of the

church, though this is not true of many churches today, with some pastors living miles away from the community they serve.

In 1975, Rev. Jackson appointed a Long Range Planning Committee to study the needs of the church and make recommendations to meet these needs. This committee was composed of John Kelly, chairman; Jack Allen, assistant chairman; A. R. Potter, D. G. Cline, Mrs. Dorothy Keith, Paul Berry, Bill Parham, Charlie Adkins, Ray Barnhill, Mrs. Frances Anderson, Kenneth Danford.

All the projects that were recommended by the committee having been completed (including painting the church, installing new carpet, building the new addition, paving the parking lot, installation of the long-longed-for elevator, etc.), the first Long Range Planning Committee had accomplished its purpose. Recognizing that the greatest need today is the spiritual and educational needs of the church, the pastor appointed the following new Planning Committee in May 1982: D. G. Cline, chairman; A. R. Potter, Ray Buddin, Mrs. Dorothy Moore, Paul Berry, Mrs. Shirley Jacobs, Jim George, Edwin Benton, Robert Pace, Jack Allen, Bobby Harrelson, Mrs. Roma Lee Hall, George Hickman, Allen Russ, Larry White, Mrs. Joanne Harrelson, and Mrs. Ellen Parham.

## XIV

### FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY and HOMECOMING



Roma Lee Hall and Rev. Jackson with the 40th Anniversary Cake she created and served.

An early morning rain on Sunday, September 12, 1982, turned into a beautiful sunshiny day by 9:45 A.M., and perfect weather continued throughout this momentous celebration of Sunset Park Baptist Church's 40th birthday. Dual services were observed, with Rev. Horace Jackson presiding. An estimated total of 700 attended the two morning worship services, with 568 in Sunday School. Nine of the thirty-nine charter members (23.1%) were present. Mrs. A. T. Greene, Jr., and Mrs. James H. Butler, Jr., widows of former pastors traveled many miles from Western North Carolina to celebrate the occasion. On the program were Rev. G. Carl Lewis and Rev. John E. Lawrence, both former pastors, and Rev. Paul Nix, the first minister ordained by Sunset Park Baptist Church. Rev.

Nix led in the morning prayer, Rev. Lewis conducted a very meaningful memorial service for deceased members, and Rev. Lawrence preached a powerful sermon on the subject, "I Will Build My Church." Of great significance, Mrs. Janie Lee, pianist when the church was born on September 6, 1942, was pianist for the 40th Anniversary, playing the same hymns that were used at the organizational service. C. L. King sang "My Tribute" which reiterated the theme of the Anniversary — "To God Be The



Glory" — which Frank Byrne had painted on the beautiful sign hung above the choir loft.

Many, many former members returned. A veritable feast in the Fellowship Hall, handled so efficiently by Laura Bostic and her team, was the focal part of the unmeasurable fellowship and renewal of old acquaintances. Special dessert was the 40th birthday cake, made and served by Roma Lee Hall. Everyone seemed happy — for instance, as Bill and Alice Cleland from Jacksonville, Florida, were eating, several past and present members came over to greet them. Alice laughingly commented, "I take one bite and kiss two!"

Much interest was evident as folks, seemingly reluctant to leave, viewed the nostalgic photographs of church groups and activities over the years (thanks to the John Kellys). Numerous letters of greetings were also displayed on the wall, from which excerpts were chosen and printed herein.

As Rev. Jackson commented, *"This celebration was the greatest gathering of charter members, former members, former pastors or their widows and former staff members, that I have ever seen. Four precious souls were added to our fellowship and many of our people committed themselves to a deeper and closer walk with our Lord and His church. We are thankful for the 110 families or individuals who gave to the special debt-free offering of \$9,533. To God Be The Glory — great things He Will do."*

The following charter members attended: Mrs. James H. Butler, Jr., Mrs. G. D. McGill, Mrs. L. R. Schnidt, Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Lee, Thomas Lee, Mrs. Emma Bryant, and Rev. and Mrs. Paul Nix.

Truly, it was a great day in the life of Sunset Park Baptist Church!



**40th Anniversary Steering Committee**

Left to right, seated: Annette Davis, chairman; Thurston C. Davis, co-chairman; Rev. Horace Jackson, Louise Branch, Iva Bryne; standing: Larry White, Barbara King, John Kelly, Arnold Ray Potter, Dorothy Moore, Laura Bostic, Frank Bryne. Not pictured: Danny Holden.

## FROM OUR PASTOR'S PEN:

September 12, 1982

Dear Church Family,

On this historical occasion, I am thrilled to be serving as your pastor. As we look back over the 40 years of the life of this great church, let us give thanks for those who have been found faithful. We have been and are labourers together in God's vineyard. It would be impossible to point out the contributions that each has made, but God has fitly framed us together that we might do the work of the church. The contributions you have made to my life and the life of my family, during the past 8 years have been very rewarding.

Through these 40 years the church has experienced many challenges as the history reveals, and the church is more mature as the result of those experiences. Moses became of age at 40, and in our day we have a saying that life begins at 40. Could it be that this 40th Anniversary is significant for launching into the remaining years? As we examine and evaluate the past, let us use every experience, every joy and every challenge to guide us into the future as we give God the glory for the past and the future.

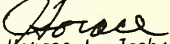
What can we expect as we look into the future? I believe you have a right to know what the dividends will be for the investment of your life and many hours of hard work. Some of the most significant are: (1) A sense of purpose - one needs to know where he or she is going. (2) A relevancy of life - the needs of the time in which we live should be examined, and the critical ones selected for church action. (3) A unity of concern - we should work toward the goal of every member working as one toward church goals. (4) Increased motivation - realizing that we get our motivation from the same one we get our salvation, we will try to please Him. (5) Good stewardship of resources - every member must grow to invest one's resources of time, money and talent to the mission of the church. (6) Continued growth - as we face the future and prepare to meet it, our commitments will enable the church to continue God's ministry of seeking and saving the lost.

You are absolutely the most capable people with whom I have had the privilege to share my life. I sense a strong, resolute desire to see our church continue as a strong dynamic voice in this community and city.

To this end, I commit myself to seek the leadership of the Holy Spirit. I am thankful for you and deeply grateful to our heavenly Father for loving us through His Son - Jesus Christ - our Lord and Saviour.

Remember, God loves you and so do I, just as you are!!!

In His Great Fellowship,

  
Horace L. Jackson  
Pastor



**Dinner Committee:** Left to right: Carl Taylor, Mabel Taylor, DeEtta Robbins, Estelle Allard, Melva Barnes, Myrtle Ray, Joe Bostic, Laura Bostic, chairman. (Not pictured: Glen and Audrey Sellars, Virginia Norris, A. L. Johnson, E. P. Davis, Lynwood Keith, Jerry Hammond)



**Attending Anniversary Celebration:** Left to right, back row: **Former Members** Betty Schnidt, Clara Mae Haithcock, Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Haithcock; **Charter Members:** Rev. and Mrs. Paul Nix, J. T. Lee, Jr. and J. T. Lee, Sr.; seated: Mrs. Bertha Schnidt, Mrs. James H. Butler, Mrs. George D. McGill, Mrs. J. T. (Janie) Lee. Not pictured: Mrs. Emma Bryant, charter member.



#### **Pastors and Wives**

Left to right, seated: Mrs. James Butler, Mrs. Bobbie Lewis, Mrs. A. T. Greene, Jr., Mrs. Hazel Jackson; back: Rev. G. Carl Lewis, Mrs. Laura Lawrence, Rev. John Lawrence, Rev. Horace L. Jackson.



As we come to the close of the first forty years in the life of Sunset Park Baptist Church, we find the church involved in a Bold Mission Thrust — bold growing, bold going and bold giving — a Southern Baptist program designed to reach every person in the world with the Gospel by the year 2000; to increase gifts to the Cooperative Program by 2 to 5 percent; and to reach a Sunday School enrollment of 8.5 million by 1985. Someone has said, "Bold Mission Thrust means planting the Good News and letting God give the increase."

Since September 6, 1942, Sunset Park Baptist Church has contributed a total of \$529,982 to missions, and of that total \$304,816 was channeled into the Cooperative Program. Looking ahead, a budget of \$267,324 has been approved for 1983, which includes \$27,550 for missions, with \$18,000 of this designated for the Cooperative Program.

Physical property has increased from \$5,400 in 1942 to \$1,303,400 in 1982. Church membership has grown from the original 39 to 1569 (1076 resident — 493 non-resident). Sunday School enrollment is now 1101, with an average attendance of 487 in 1982. During the lifetime of Sunset Park Baptist Church, there have been 1940 baptisms, and the primary business of the church continues to be soul-winning.

With a churchwide spirit of love, harmony and cooperation among members — one with the other and with God — who can predict what great achievements will be written into the history of the next forty years of Sunset Park Baptist Church?

## XV

### SPECIAL NOTES

**The Pastors' Wives** — For their inspiration and support in helping their husbands carry their load, this church shall ever be indebted to the fine Christian helpmates of the pastors who have served in its pulpit:

Mrs. Anne Butler  
Mrs. Bobbie Lewis  
Mrs. Laura Lawrence  
Mrs. Kathryn Greene  
Mrs. Doris Jackson

Mrs. Miriam Lamb  
Mrs. Katherine Vinson  
Mrs. Pauline Ross  
Mrs. Ann Zimmerman  
Mrs. Hazel Jackson

**Young ladies from this church who married ministers or other full-time Christian workers:**

Mrs. James Pickens  
Mrs. Ralph Riley  
Mrs. Maurice Grissom  
Mrs. Joe C. Deaton  
Mrs. Ray Barnhill

(Clarine Johnson)  
(Jessie Mae Thompson)  
(Doris Batchelor)  
(Pat Morgan)  
(Lynda Sublett)

### **Ministers ordained by Sunset Park Baptist Church:**

Rev. Paul Nix . . . . . Retired minister, still active  
Rev. Macon Davis . . . . . Deceased  
Rev. Horace Hawes . . . Social Supervisor at Kennedy Home in Kinston, N.C.  
Rev. Glen Tyson  
Rev. Horace Barefoot . Working at Campbell University at Buies Creek, N.C.  
Rev. Raymond Hall  
Rev. David Rowan . . . . . Residing in Lenoir, N.C.

### **Deep appreciation is expressed to:**

Mr. and Mrs. John Kelly as voluntary official church photographers  
Mrs. Frances Rouse for outstanding leadership in coaching twenty-two different State winners from this church in Training Union Memory Work Tournaments

Elliott Holiday for his long years of faithful service as janitor

All leaders and workers in Sunday School, Training Union and Vacation Bible School

All WMU and Brotherhood organizations for emphasizing missions

All keepers of the nursery during worship services

All choirs for lifting up their voices in songs of praise and thanksgiving

Mrs. Gladys Spell for her beautiful and inspiring poetry

Miss Mildred Taylor for the lovely floral table arrangements

Hal Langley for years of dedicated RA work and leadership

Mrs. Laura Bostic for her expertise in directing dinner committees for special occasions (have you ever seen her speed in peeling potatoes or slicing pies?)

All directors of Wednesday night suppers (Lolita Adkins, Faye Brinson, Cathy Willis, Gerrie Hammond) and their able helpers

Long-serving church officers: Anna Mintz, treasurer since 1962; Joann Cline, church clerk since 1971; Dorothy Moore, WMU Director since 1972; Arnold Ray Potter, Sunday School Director for over a decade

Joe Bostic for many devoted years on the Building and Grounds Committee (luckily, his injuries were non-fatal when he tumbled out of a tree)

Mrs. Estelle Allard directing 4-year-olds, and Mrs. Louise Branch directing 5-year-olds for almost the lifetime of our church

Mrs. Lolita Adkins, long-time director of the Nursery Department, who today is looking after the second generation of babies whose parents years ago were some of the children in her care

Mrs. Georgia Rhodes, our "singing-on-the-job" custodian

### **Never-to-be forgotten**

Jimmy Allard's devotional message at 1953 WMU State Convention

Church-sponsored suppers at USO for service men

1957 Christmas Concert by Wilmington Jr. Hi Band

Brotherhood Ladies' Night — Annual Sweetheart Banquets

Youth Week when young people serve in leadership positions

Senior High Recognition Day — presentation of Bibles to graduates

YWA White Bible Ceremonies for brides-to-be  
 GA Coronation and RA Recognition services  
 New Year's Eve watch services  
 Joint Thanksgiving Day services with Sunset Park Methodist Church  
 Church picnics and homecomings  
 Trips to Ridgecrest, Caswell and Caraway  
 1960 Associational RA Baseball Champs from Immanuel Baptist Mission  
 Young Peoples' basketball teams  
 Judith Teague's narration of slides of her 1963 Holy Land tour  
 "Home Life" and "Charity and Children" periodicals  
 Girl Scout and Boy Scout Troops sponsored by the church  
 Elizabeth Teague in 1964 having the first Honor WMU in Association  
 The beautiful wedding ceremonies in the sanctuary  
 1974 micro filming of church records by N. C. Dept. of Archives  
 Sharing our clothes closet with peoples of Central America  
 Generosity of Mrs. Mary Morris' will providing sanctuary speaker system  
 Enjoyable monthly vesper services during summer at B&W Park  
 Presentation of Lord's Supper Table by Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Ray Potter  
     in memory of Rev. A. T. Greene, Jr., former pastor  
 Pictorial Directory published in 1979  
 Two unique revivals: Festival of Faith in 1975 and the Stallneckers (1981)  
 24-hour chains of prayer preceding revivals  
 Christmas caroling to shut-ins by young people  
 The talented hand-bell choir  
 Rev. Horace Jackson's far-reaching ministry over Burgaw Radio Station  
 Dick Milham's annual visits and sermons  
 Memorial Plaque in church vestibule  
 Annual church membership directory  
 Wednesday night fellowship suppers  
 Men's prayer breakfasts  
 Mother's Day observance and infant-parent dedication service  
 The cook book, "Our Daily Bread" compiled by WMU in 1980-1981  
 Tommy Teague's tenor concert in 1969  
 Kathy Ray traveling with Youth Evangelistic Team in 1976  
 "Scripture Center", courtesy of American Bible Society  
 Mrs. Mildred Gosnell elected WMU Queen at 1977 "M" Night  
 Poinsettias placed in sanctuary for Christmas (77 plants in 1981)  
 Christmas in August by WMU  
 "Down by the Creek" and numerous other special musicals by choirs  
 Participation in paper collection to help Cape Fear Lung Association  
 Men's Evangelistic Conferences  
 The professional manner in which Walter Finch, Bobby McKenzie and  
     Ricky Jackson handle the sound controls



## Co-Laborers Through the Years

### Pastors

Rev. James H. Butler  
 Rev. G. Carl Lewis  
 Rev. John E. Lawrence  
 Rev. A. T. Greene, Jr.  
 Rev. Colon S. Jackson, Jr.  
 Rev. William C. Lamb  
 Rev. E. T. Vinson  
 Rev. Jason Ross  
 Rev. Joe Zimmerman  
 \*Rev. Horace Jackson

### Interim Pastors

Rev. Henry B. Anderson  
 Rev. E. W. Pate

### Sunday School Directors

Manning Bishop  
 Lloyd Bradshaw  
 C. E. Gosnell  
 J. Kyle Graybeal  
 A. E. Grissom  
 A. C. Haithcock  
 C. B. Johnson  
 John Kelly  
 \*A. R. Potter  
 Earl Ward

### Brotherhood Directors

M. B. Barefoot  
 Fred Baucom  
 \*Paul Berry  
 C. A. Brockwell  
 J. H. Campbell  
 Horace Davis  
 Thurston Davis, Sr.  
 C. E. Gosnell  
 A. E. Grissom  
 L. H. Keith  
 John Kelly  
 F. L. Kersey  
 E. N. Kinlaw

\*Asterick denotes serving in 1982.

J. T. Lee  
 C. N. Long  
 J. W. Metts  
 Cameron Morgan  
 Cecil Palmer  
 Alva Penney  
 Tom Pitts  
 A. R. Potter  
 L. K. Schnidt  
 Carl E. Taylor  
 A. F. Teague  
 J. V. Tomberlin

### Music/Educational/Youth Directors

#### Full-time:

Lee Ray Greene  
 Roy Holder  
 \*C. L. King  
 Charles Meadows  
 Leroy Nash  
 Marty Phillips  
 \*William L. Smith  
 Phil Wiggins

#### Part-time:

Mrs. James Butler  
 M. C. Cagle  
 Glenn Dunn  
 John Dyer  
 Mrs. J. T. Lee  
 W. A. Parham  
 Keith Sellers  
 Miss Joann Webster  
 Miss Lory Wubbena

### Church Treasurers

E. S. Ackerman  
 D. T. Branch  
 Thad Carmichael  
 Mrs. W. I. Davis  
 Lloyd Dunn  
 Mrs. G. D. McGill  
 \*Mrs. Anna Mintz  
 \*Mrs. Ellen Parham (assist.)  
 J. C. Price

## **Training Union Directors**

T. V. Allen  
E. E. Benton  
Donald Branch  
L. W. Brookshire  
Mrs. Rosa Lee Brown  
\*Ray Buddin  
J. H. Campbell  
L. R. Carter  
W. A. Cleland  
Doug Cline  
Jerry Hammond  
E. N. Kinlaw  
A. R. Merritt  
Mrs. Hattie Morgan  
Cecil Palmer  
W. A. Parham  
Charles Register, Jr.  
Michael Rogers  
Mrs. Frances Rouse  
L. K. Schnidt  
Jim Seay  
A. F. Teague  
E. Earl Ward

## **Trustees**

Charlie H. Adkins  
H. L. Allard  
\*Jack Allen  
M. B. Barefoot  
Ronald Barnhill  
\*E. E. Benton  
Paul Berry  
Lloyd M. Bradshaw  
D. T. Branch  
Roscoe Boone  
W. E. Boone  
W. B. Brown  
\*Ray Buddin  
Doug Cline  
C. V. Cummings  
E. P. Davis  
M. J. Fountain  
Hugh Garriss  
C. E. Gosnell  
Kyle Graybeal  
\*Bobby Harrelson

\*Elmer Hatcher  
A. E. Hayes  
E. L. Hickman  
R. L. Honeycutt  
A. C. Jackson  
A. L. Johnson  
George Johnson  
J. T. Jordan  
Earl Kelly  
John Kelly  
J. T. Lee, Sr.  
O. N. Martin  
\*A. R. Potter  
A. H. Rowan  
J. W. Taylor  
J.V. Tomberlin  
Earl Ward  
D. E. Wilkins  
Earl Williamson

## **Church Instrumentalists**

Mrs. William Barefoot  
Mrs. B. A. Boyles  
Mrs. Margaret Brooks  
Mrs. Vivian R. Carter  
Mrs. Joe Harden  
Mrs. Norman Harper  
\*Mrs. Geneva King  
Mrs. J. T. Lee  
\*Mr. Joey Marlowe  
Mrs. Gene Padrick  
Mrs. J. H. Rhyme (sub)  
Mrs. Barbara Thomas  
Mrs. William Warner  
Mrs. Vivian Wright

## **Church Secretaries**

Mrs. Ruth Barefoot  
Mrs. Kenneth Brady  
Mrs. Ruby Campbell  
Mrs. Mollie Everett  
Mrs. Jeff Johnson  
Mrs. Jeanne Leonard  
Mrs. W. O. Page  
Mrs. Debbie Ross  
\*Mrs. Karen Shannon  
\*Mrs. Lori Turner

**WMU Directors**

Mrs. R. A. Armstrong  
Mrs. James Butler  
Mrs. H. E. Duke  
Mrs. E. E. Dye  
Mrs. Mollie Everett  
Mrs. A. C. Jackson  
Mrs. A. L. Johnson  
Mrs. F. L. Kersey  
Mrs. J. T. Lee  
Mrs. G. Carl Lewis  
Mrs. G. D. McGill  
\*Mrs. Dorothy Moore  
Mrs. Hattie Morgan  
Mrs. Frances Rouse  
Mrs. A. F. Teague

**Church Historians**

Mrs. Myrtle Chestnut  
\*Mrs. Thurston Davis  
Mrs. W. I. Davis  
Mrs. Mollie Everett  
Mrs. John Kelly

**Church Clerks**

T. E. Applewhite  
H. O. Barefoot  
W. A. Cleland  
\*Mrs. JoAnne Cline  
Mrs. Mollie Everett  
Mrs. Jim George  
Mrs. Dorothy Moore  
Alva Penney  
M. B. Barefoot  
Mrs. J. A. Pierce  
Mrs. L. K. Schnidt  
Mrs. Vivian Wright

**Church Librarians**

Mrs. Rosa Lee Brown  
Mrs. Lucille Collier  
Mrs. Irvin Harden  
Mrs. F. L. Kersey  
\*Mrs. Kathy Mercer  
Mrs. Cecil Palmer  
Miss Helen Paschall  
\*Miss Mildred Taylor



# **Deacons who have served Sunset Park Baptist Church from 9/6/42 to 10/1/82**

Emmett Ackerman	*Tony DeGenova	Cameron Morgan
H. L. Allard	Lloyd Dunn	Dale Morgan
Jack Allen	E. E. Dye	Paul Nix
T. V. Allen	Kenneth Garren	*Bill Oaks
William G. Anderson	Hugh Garriss	Gene Padrick
R. A. Armstrong	*Jim George	Julius Padrick
Charles Barefoot	*C. E. Gosnell	*Richard Pace
H. O. Barefoot	Kyle Graybeal	*Robert Pace
M. B. Barefoot	A. C. Gregg	Cecil Palmer
Ronald Barnhill	Al Grissom	W. A. Parham
Walter Barnhill	A. C. Haithcock	Preston Parker
*E. E. Benton	*Jerry Hammond	Alva Penny
*Paul Berry	J. J. Hamrick	Thomas E. Pitts
B. A. Boyles	Irvin Harden	Arnold Ray Potter
Lloyd Bradshaw	*Bobby Harrelson	J. C. Price
S. C. Bragg	*Elmer Hatcher	O. E. Rhodes
*D. T. Branch	P. D. Hester	J. L. Rochelle
*Donald Branch	Lewis Hewlett	M. E. Rogers
C. A. Brockwell, Jr.	E. L. Hickman	*Allen Russ
L. W. Brookshire	*Danny Holden	Mike Savage
George Brown	A. C. Jackson	L. K. Schnidt
John Browning	C. B. Johnson, Jr.	James Seay
Ray Buddin	G. R. Johnson	Gene Sereno
M. C. Cagle	J. T. Jordan	Robert Stone
J. H. Campbell	*L. H. Keith	Roger Tatum
Thad Carmichael	*John Kelly	Carl E. Taylor
W. A. Cleland	F. L. Kersey	J. W. Taylor, Jr.
*Doug Cline	*Ed King	A. F. Teague
C. V. Cummings	Hal Langley	Earl Ward
Kenneth Danford	Donald Lee	W. F. Weeks
*Lenwood Danford	J. T. Lee, Sr.	*Larry White
Horace Davis	Boyd Lowe	J. R. Wierse
Thurston C. Davis, Sr.	Bob MacIvergan	C. T. Williams
Marion DeBose	G. D. McGill	R. M. Williams

\*Asterick denotes active deacons in 1982.

## XVI

### Excerpts from Greetings received on 40th Anniversary

*"... In behalf of Baptists of North Carolina... I am particularly grateful to the Sunset Park Baptist Church for the continuing example of evangelistic fervor and for the spirit of caring for people."*

Cecil A. Ray  
General Secretary-Treasurer  
N. C. Baptist State Convention

*"May Sunset Park Baptist Church continue to align itself with what God is doing in this world so that the ministry will flourish until Jesus Christ comes to take us home."*

Bobby R. Stafford  
Director of Missions  
Wilmington Baptist Association

*"May you have a very significant day. May God richly bless your every effort and may the past be prologue to the future as you move onward and upward in faith."*

E. G. Puckett, Editor  
The Biblical Recorder  
Raleigh, N. C.

*"Those years in Wilmington were two of the most memorable of my husband's ministry. I marvel at God's wisdom, grace and love."*

Mrs. James H. Butler  
Asheville, N. C.

*"I rejoice in the great growth and ministry which the church has experienced... The greatest years are in the future."*

Rev. G. Carl Lewis  
Rockingham, N. C.

*"I salute you on your 40th anniversary. You are a great people! It shall be my prayer that you will know the continued blessings of God in the years ahead."*

Rev. John Lawrence  
Cary, N. C.

*"Some of my dearest friends on earth are at Sunset Park... I wish that my husband were here to rejoice with you on this occasion; however, I am sure he does rejoice from the portals of Heaven."*

Mrs. A. T. Greene, Jr.  
Hickory, N. C.

*"To all of the members . . . we send our best wishes and congratulations on the progress made in advancing the Kingdom of God."*

Rev. Colon and Mrs. Jackson  
Cdr. CHC, USN  
New Bern, N. C.

*"Rejoice in all your victories for Christ, especially under the excellent leadership of Pastor Horace Jackson and your present staff."*

Rev. "Bill" and Mrs. Lamb  
Hawaii Baptist Convention  
Honolulu, Hawaii

*"You will always hold a warm spot in my heart! My prayer is that you will continue to prosper in every respect as you carry out His will and purpose."*

Rev. E. T. Vinson  
Greenville, N. C.

*"May your love for Christ abound more and more. Be occupied with the person of Christ, for He is the only celebrity of the church."*

Rev. Jason Ross  
Shallotte, N. C.

*"The word and work of your church has been carried in many directions. Thank you for permitting me to be a very small part of your history."*

Rev. Joe B. Zimmerman  
Apex, N. C.

*"... Sunset Park Baptist Church has stood as a lighthouse, seeking to guide and point in the right direction lives of many people. . . We are grateful for the privilege of serving here and being a part of the fellowship in 1967-1972."*

Roy E. Holder, Director  
Transylvania Baptist Assn.  
Brevard, N. C.

*"... We continue to follow with great anticipation and love as the church continues to grow in number and influence both here in this area and around the world."*

Rev. Paul and Mrs. Nix  
Wilmington, N. C.

*"This church is living proof of the positive power of Jesus Christ. I served and shall forever be thankful to God for this special privilege."*

O. K. Pridgen  
Wilmington, N. C.



*"I am today able to look back and praise the Lord for guiding me through the tender years of youth in the cradle of Sunset Park Baptist Church."*

Rev. Horace Hawes  
Kennedy Home  
Kinston, N. C.

*"It is difficult to give adequate expression to all that you meant to us during those formative years when God was dealing with us in a unique way."*

Rev. Horace and Mrs. Barefoot  
Campbell College  
Buies Creek, N. C.

*"You have a good church and we are pleased to see the progress. May the Lord continue to bless you in your service for Him."*

Leroy D. Nash  
Cookville, Tennessee

*"The youth of Sunset were, and always will be, a special part of my life as we learned and grew together in the knowledge of Jesus."*

Lee Ray Greene  
Missionary to Tanzania,  
East Africa

*"Though the call of God has carried my family to a distant land, we have always felt a part of your fellowship and have appreciated your prayer support."*

Rev. Ray Rogers  
Missionary to Indonesia

*"We thank God for the spiritual vision of our Mother Church, and for all that you did for us at Immanuel Baptist Church. We join with you in spirit and enthusiasm on this great occasion. We love you!"*

Rev. Robert Jernigan  
Immanuel Baptist Church

*"We rejoice with you . . . and are reminded of God's blessing upon your life as we again thank Him for using you to begin this church here."*

Rev. Johnny M. Hunt  
Long Leaf Baptist Church

*"Together we have ministered to the needs of Sunset Park these last forty years . . . and in all things you have been a challenging witness to the Gospel for our time in the place where God has set us to serve."*

Rev. Herb Waldrop  
Sunset Park United Methodist  
Church

# STATISTICS

Year	Church Membership	No. of Baptism	S.S. Enrollment	Avg. S.S. Attendance	T. U. Enrollment	Total Brotherhood Enrollment	Total W. M. U. Enrollment	Value Church Property	Local Expenditures	Total Gifts to Missions	Co-op Program	Choir Enrollment
1942	45	1	175	92	—	—	13	5,400	133	123	—	
1943	132	18	216	112	58	10	89	34,250	11,413	1,637	1,286	
1944	195	28	604	134	84	21	80	43,000	25,406	1,221	469	
1945	289	31	564	271	77	29	88	39,500	14,415	1,859	914	
1946	328	36	524	293	81	18	233	37,500	13,415	2,591	1,134	
1947	408	51	556	297	108	26	214	44,000	13,900	2,413	1,071	
1948	440	35	587	244	146	16	233	45,000	14,438	2,544	1,241	
1949	469	29	588	327	151	35	248	45,000	10,333	2,677	1,296	
1950	627	97	693	405	207	61	274	65,000	29,157	5,234	2,475	
1951	784	106	690	466	198	65	303	200,000	91,481	6,213	3,480	
1952	887	80	923	*	220	73	296	208,500	37,303	7,911	5,384	
1953	1022	66	941	587	293	79	303	221,000	41,394	8,897	5,447	
1954	1030	56	1146	*	238	95	319	222,200	32,902	9,153	5,664	
1955	1125	103	1125	586	216	133	226	240,200	63,494	9,811	6,189	
1956	1184	66	1212	590	314	132	282	249,418	49,425	11,199	7,191	274
1957	1216	89	1220	607	302	130	295	250,933	40,943	12,303	7,900	232
1958	1304	93	1438	608	375	142	264	252,796	41,045	13,589	9,293	*
1959	1385	89	1367	661	298	113	261	278,651	39,107	13,517	8,443	160
1960	1176	28	1070	540	220	147	246	285,659	40,578	11,972	7,896	232
1961	1141	16	1012	569	254	86	242	313,659	43,641	10,392	7,354	151
1962	1124	21	1008	567	231	104	236	426,500	90,411	12,100	8,940	148

1963	1103	17	1150	521	271	84	247	433,580	62,325	10,553	7,054	195
1964	1195	111	962	528	197	114	287	433,580	53,869	10,822	7,385	245
1965	1225	66	938	508	207	84	260	433,580	72,184	17,959	11,660	186
1966	1227	30	822	422	185	89	234	433,580	44,185	15,192	10,255	221
1967	1255	32	857	434	177	125	235	430,900	68,896	18,417	12,870	217
1968	1272	22	825	411	174	93	202	430,900	68,961	15,500	10,215	135
1969	1276	23	878	382	139	75	184	430,900	72,378	13,308	7,519	178
1970	1244	6	831	357	156	*	151	430,900	71,397	12,033	5,973	164
1971	1276	56	863	363	196	53	184	430,900	84,975	17,266	13,519	154
1972	1270	23	680	306	139	57	140	430,900	103,512	13,262	6,667	125
1973	1190	15	548	240	110	81	153	435,900	73,192	16,057	7,732	93
1974	1167	8	529	255	116	104	105	445,900	88,362	15,958	8,000	77
1975	1209	44	584	303	107	87	149	425,000	98,468	17,146	8,950	104
1976	1256	42	714	364	135	114	177	425,000	114,666	19,777	8,950	133
1977	1338	74	949	407	185	130	176	448,900	130,216	21,385	10,000	165
1978	1373	44	772	414	206	101	198	460,000	165,740	22,720	12,000	140
1979	1400	34	771	415	211	65	174	699,964	173,002	28,280	13,500	168
1980	1480	60	971	460	267	119	185	1,081,395	405,230	28,767	15,000	206
1981	1548	62	1097	475	259	122	192	1,331,396	616,510	33,001	16,500	187
1982	1569	32	1101	487	272	67	201	1,303,400	308,727	35,241	18,000	178
<b>Totals</b>		<b>1940</b>							<b>3,621,129</b>	<b>529,982</b>	<b>304,816</b>	

\*Figures Not Available  
Source: Association Records



## Acknowledgement

My sincere thanks to all who have helped me compile this history, particularly to Thurston, my husband, for his leg work and enthusiastic support; also to Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Lee, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Allard, Mrs. G. D. McGill, Rev. Paul Nix, and Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Gosnell for sharing their memories; to Mr. Earl Kelly for his sketches; and to Mr. and Mrs. John Kelly for the many treasured photographs of church members and activities. I especially appreciate the general assistance from the church secretaries, and the wonderful cooperation received from Rev. Horace Jackson.

Annette H. Davis

*Members are urged to maintain their history of Sunset Park Baptist Church on an up-to-date basis by preserving the following available publications for easy reference: Annual Sunday School and Church Directory, Sunday church bulletins, weekly Beacon Newsletter, Charity and Children, the Biblical Recorder, monthly newsletter of the Wilmington Baptist Association, and minutes of the monthly church conference. Be an informed member!*

## CHURCH COVENANT

Having been led as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, we do now in the presence of God and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into this Covenant with one another, as one body in Christ. We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church in knowledge, holiness and comfort; to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines; to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, relief of the poor, and spread of the Gospel throughout all nations. We also engage to maintain family and secret devotion, to religiously educate our children; to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances; to walk circumspectly in the world, to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in our deportments; to avoid all tattling, back-biting and excessive anger; to abstain from the use and sale of intoxicating drinks as a beverage; and to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior.

We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love, to remember each other in prayer, to aid each other in sickness and distress, to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and courtesy in speech, to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation, and mindful of the rules of our Savior, to secure it without delay.

We moreover engage that when we remove from this place we will as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and principles of God's Word.





















